



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Foreign Ministers Arrive for GCC Meeting 14 Sep

LD1409154191 Riyadh SPA in English 1259 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Jeddah, Sep 14 (SPA)—Foreign ministers of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] arrived here today to attend the 40th session of the GCC ministerial council.

Those who arrived at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport included Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah of Bahrain, Yusuf Bin-al- Alawi Bin-'Abdallah of Oman, Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir of Qatar, and Salim al-Sabah, the deputy premier and foreign minister of Kuwait. They were greeted by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Abdullah Bisharah, the secretary general of the GCC, and a number of senior officials.

Begin Session 14 Sep

LD1409222591 Riyadh SPA in English 1936 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Jeddah, Sep 14 (SPA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministerial council began its 40th ordinary session in Jeddah Saturday night under the chairmanship of Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir.

The ministerial council is comprised of the foreign ministers of the GCC six member states.

Addressing the opening session, Mubarak said the session's agenda includes a number of political, security, and economic issues.

He said session will also review the GCC procession and to draw the lessons from the crises which had faced the GCC countries.

Mubarak said the GCC countries were endeavoring to preserve the security of their peoples and achieving their common interests under a new concept for the joint action.

Mubarak thanked on behalf of the participating delegations custodian of the two holy mosques, the Saudi Government and people for hosting the session and for the warm welcomed accord to them.

Meet UN's Perez de Cuellar

LD1409222491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah in the presence of GCC Secretary General 'Abdullah Bisharah.

Following the meeting, 'Abdullah Bisharah said that views were exchanged between the two sides on basic

matters pertaining to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the Iraqi invasion and aggression against Kuwait and the need for the strict implementation of these resolutions without any hesitation or procrastination. Bisharah stressed that this is a basic requisite for stability in the region. He also affirmed that the meeting covered the implementation of the seven basic items before reaching item eight on the building of a security structure, which concerns the GCC member countries.

He said that the discussions also covered the ways for building security and stability in the region. He said: We stated that the most important means and tools are the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq and Kuwait following the Iraqi aggression and the implementation of the provisions pertaining to Iraq and Iran. Thereupon, he said, we can attain the regional building of peace and stability which will comprise the GCC member countries and Iran and, in the future, Iraq, after the change of the regime there, God willing. Bisharah also pointed out that the discussions covered all the UN resolutions and the need for implementing them, including ending the repeated Iraqi aggression on the Kuwaiti borders and the issue of Kuwaiti POWs in Iraq and the need for their return with utmost speed and without any procrastination.

'Text' of GCC Ministerial Council Statement

LD1509214191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT
15 Sep 91

[Text] Jeddah, 15 Sep (SPA)—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states concluded the meeting of the 40th session of the GCC ministerial council this afternoon.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah read out the press statement issued by the council at the beginning of the final session. Here is the text of the statement:

The ministerial council held its 40th session in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 14-15 September 1991 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, minister of foreign affairs of the State of Qatar and chairman of the current session of the ministerial council, and in the presence of all its members:

1. Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates;
2. Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister of Bahrain;
3. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister;
4. Mr. Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs of Oman; and
5. Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The council discussed the latest events in the region and regional developments, and noticed with extreme concern the persistence of the Iraqi regime in its aggressive

line, avoidance of its obligations, and procrastination over the carrying out of the resolutions of the UN Security Council concerning its aggression against the State of Kuwait, particularly Resolution 687.

The council expresses its condemnation of the Iraqi regime regarding delaying the release of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees and citizens from other states. The council calls on the Iraqi regime to release all detainees registered in the lists presented by the State of Kuwait to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The ministerial council calls on the UN Security Council to emphasize the full implementation of Resolutions 686 and 687 and the cease-fire conditions to secure a speedy return of the prisoners and the detainees without any delay. The council welcomes the UN Security Council's endorsement of Resolution 706 in which the UN secretary general is requested, following consultations with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to submit a report to the UN Security Council on his activities regarding this humanitarian issue.

While the council welcomes the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolutions 705, 706, and 707 that stress the continuation of the international firm and determined position regarding the full and speedy implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to issues in question, it strongly denounces the delay tactics of the Iraqi regime regarding border demarcation between the State of Kuwait and Iraq on the basis of 1932 and 1963 agreements between the two countries in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 687. The council calls on the Security Council to exercise pressure on the Iraqi regime to secure a quick implementation of the rulings regarding this resolution.

The council reiterates its commitment to the principles stipulated by the Damascus declaration, and expresses its satisfaction over the level of coordination that has been achieved between the eight states. The council looks forward to the forthcoming meeting in November in the Arab Republic of Egypt in order to achieve the principles encompassed in this declaration, as these principles serve as a foundation meeting the ambitions of these states and a working formula for joint Arab action.

The council affirms its eagerness to find a common basis for constructive cooperation between the GCC member countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Noting the progress made as a result of the contacts and relations between the two countries, the ministerial council looks forward to the start of an era of cooperation serving the common interests of both peoples and the bolstering of security and stability in the region.

The council refers to its meeting on 14 September 1991 with the UN secretary general and expresses its welcome of the efforts exerted by him in regard to the implementation of Resolution 598 forming part of the efforts to bolster security and stability in the region.

The council welcomes the positive developments the world is now witnessing under the aegis of an order based on understanding and dialogue, the avoidance of resorting to force, recession of the cold war, and concentration on development programs instead of a search for spheres of influence.

Within this framework, the council welcomes the international efforts being exerted for solving the problem of Afghanistan and other pending problems that have caused a great deal of tension.

The council expresses its hope that the current world trend will lead to tackling the spots of tension in accordance with the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

In this regard, the ministerial council follows with utmost interest and care the peaceful efforts being made by the international community in general and the United States, led by President George Bush in particular, for reaching a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The council reiterates its support for these constructive and sincere efforts in the hope that they will soon lead to the convocation of the proposed peace conference.

The council follows with great concern Israel's persistence in its policy of obstinacy and its obstruction of the peace process. It also condemns the Israeli policies aimed at implanting and expanding the illegal settlements in the occupied Arab territories, a matter which obstructs the peace process and destroys the foundations of security and stability in the region.

The council hails the steps taken by the Lebanese Government to safeguard Lebanon's independence and its territorial integrity and to preserve its sovereignty. It expresses its satisfaction with the results achieved by the Lebanese Government in its endeavor to consolidate national accord and it affirms its support for the construction program that the Lebanese Government is endeavoring to carry out.

The council also hails the recent efforts made by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to reconcile the brothers in Somalia, preserve the national unity of this country, and spare the blood of the fraternal Somali people in order that security and stability are restored to the entire region of the Horn of Africa.

The council also expresses its satisfaction with the return of the legitimate government in the Soviet Union and its continuation of its policy of openness, restructuring, and the guaranteeing of liberties inside the country so that this friendly country can utilize its resources and potential for the well-being and prosperity of its peoples and so that the Soviet Union can contribute generously to bolster the principles of justice and strengthen the foundations of security and peace in the world.

Issued in Jeddah on 15 September 1991.

Afterwards, Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir announced the end of the proceedings of the 40th session of the GCC Ministerial Council.

Ministers Meet for Arab Maghreb Union Session

LD1309160991 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Summary] The foreign ministers of Algeria, Lakhdar Brahimi; Libya's secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari; and Mauritania's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Hasni Ould Didi, arrived in Casablanca this morning to attend the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) foreign ministers conference, which is due to start later today.

View Cooperation, 'Implementation'

LD1409061391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) ministerial council began at noon today in Casablanca and was chaired by the Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, Abdellatif Filali. [passage omitted]

The conference resumed at 1830 Moroccan time, which is 1930 Algerian time. The work of the session usually is conducted in camera, but we as journalists tried to find out what was discussed at the two sessions.

The ministers held two sessions this evening. We gathered some information circulating in the lobbies, which includes: The ministerial council discussed or concentrated on the need to find a framework to overcome the obstacles hindering cooperation among Maghreb states to ensure the running of the AMU institutions. The discussion also touched on the question of establishing an AMU general secretariat. This point was stressed by the five ministers. There was unanimity on this issue. The secretariat will give greater credibility to the AMU through implementation of all the resolutions that were made at previous sessions, but were not implemented. [passage omitted]

There were several dossiers with regard to the most important points to be raised by the ministers and which were prepared by the follow-up committee. The dossiers concern the issues of the area. This time, however, the slogan of this session is "implementation." It centers around the question of or paying attention to implementation, namely to implement all the projects and agreements of previous sessions of the presidential council and to give priority to the programs that directly affect the Maghreb citizens. Such programs include the agreements that concern the movement of persons and residence and also the movement of goods as well as other

projects which were tackled by the follow-up committee such as cooperation in communications and other questions. [passage omitted]

Conclude Talks in Casablanca

LD1409182191 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio
Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) foreign ministers concluded their work today in Casablanca. It was learned from an informed source that a meeting will be held this evening at the level of the heads of AMU delegations.

The AMU foreign ministers this morning held a closed session chaired by Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

Leaders Attend Arab Maghreb Union Summit 15 Sep

King Hassan Opens Session

LD1509184891 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 1443 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Speech by Morocco's King Hassan II at the opening of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) summit at the Royal Palace in Casablanca on 15 September—live]

[Text] Thanks be to God. Prayers and peace upon our master, God's prophet, and his companions.

Brothers, leaders of the Greater Maghreb: Undoubtedly you have felt that not only Casablanca, but the whole of Morocco is happy and pleased about your meeting taking place on the soil of your second country. Therefore, I do not have to welcome you. It gives me great happiness to note the serious, positive, and realistic proceedings following the proceedings of our delegations at the foreign ministerial level, thank God.

Many shake-ups have been witnessed by the world during the past month. Some of them have led to radical changes in approximately half of the world and also the whole continent. Other changes are related particularly to Arab issues, at the forefront of which is the Arab-Israeli dispute, difference, and conflict.

The Greater Maghreb should analyze these world and regional developments. The Greater Maghreb should face up to what can be faced, and proceed along the line of what can be pursued.

I am confident whenever we seek counsel from the wisdom of our peoples and the originality of their cultures, the authenticity of their wisdom, and the roots of their experience. I am confident that we will find in this reference to the original roots something we can use as a weapon regarding the spirit of constructive imagination, the spirit of commitment to principles, and the spirit to build our Greater Maghreb along the standards that we desire and with the means that we should choose, using competence and wisdom, so that we can face the

next century. We should be prepared for the next century. You all realize that only eight years remain before the next century.

Let us turn our trust and our prayers to God. We beseech God Almighty to bestow on us guidance, mental force, and literary bravery, as well as a sane method so as to achieve positive results from this summit, as we did during past summits—results that will have immediate and long-term repercussions.

Once again, you are welcome in your second country. May God make us successful for the sake of all the Arab countries and Great Maghreb countries. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Tunisian President Speaks

LD1509182791 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 1443 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the opening of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) summit at the Royal Palace in Casablanca on 15 September—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Majesty, president of the union's Chairmanship Council, excellencies, gentlemen:

It pleases me, while opening with God's blessings the proceedings of our fourth presidential session, to express my delight at this new meeting on the land of sister Morocco—this good land from which the sun of our Maghreb union has risen.

On this happy occasion I would like to convey to His Majesty King Hassan II, and through His Majesty to all individuals of the fraternal Moroccan people, expressions of gratitude for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality we have received, invoking Almighty God to bless our proceedings and guide our steps.

Your Majesty and excellencies: The renewal of our meeting on the land of sister Morocco two and one-half years after the convening of our constituent session in the city of Marrakech, the capital of Al-Muwahhidin, is a good opportunity for assessing the phases that we have gone through toward the building of the union and the embodiment of its objectives.

The short period of time that has just passed in the life of the union has been rich with experience and rewards. It has given leaders and officials in charge of the various sectors in our countries an unprecedented opportunity in the history of our region to maintain continuous contacts. It has allowed renewed meetings that have given our futuristic vision a new spirit of collective thinking, which manifests itself in the agreements and programs of action that we have adopted in various fields, and in the steadily increasing coordination that has become characteristic of our dealings with our international environment, and the causes of our Arab nation in particular, and the contemporary world in general.

Inasmuch as we pride ourselves on these gains, we are determined to enrich and consolidate them until the AMU becomes a fact, concretely reflected in all aspects of the daily life for every individual Maghrebian. Therefore, Tunis has taken the initiative in ratifying all agreements that have been reached. We sincerely hope the initiatives will come into force in the shortest possible time, because we strongly believe that, since the world is changing at an astonishing speed, we have no time for hesitation. We believe that, having paved the appropriate ground for the union, it is time to enable it to take off. We believe it is essential to set up the rest of its institutions in a way that allows it to function with more efficiency and usefulness. It is also necessary to execute what has already been agreed upon and to move on to the practical phases of our countries' integration, through human and material contacts, especially as far as the movement of people and their residence is concerned; by adopting the use of a single identity card; by the removal of customs barriers for the national products of our countries; and by intensifying the volume of commercial exchanges.

We must also begin to gradually realize our ambition for economic, social, and cultural integration among our countries by speeding up the realization of what can be done, taking into consideration our countries' resources. In this way we hope to overcome the numerous difficulties and challenges that arose due to the radical changes the world around us has been witnessing.

Dear brothers: Today, as the Arab nation is facing a number of fateful destinies, the AMU is called upon to continue to shoulder its pan-Arab responsibilities by working to overcome the aftermath and vestiges of the ordeal. Perhaps the first task on which we should concentrate our efforts in this crucial stage in the history of our nation is the rebuilding of confidence and the entrenchment of security and stability in the Arab region. The realization of this ambitious objective in the sphere of reality demands that we adhere to the values of fraternity, good-neighborliness, and true solidarity. These constitute sound ground for solving our problems, however complex they may be, through dialogue and peace in accordance with our noble Islamic traditions.

This inevitably necessitates affirmation of the respect of the sovereignty of Arab states within their territorial borders and adherence to the principle of noninterference in their internal affairs, coupled with serious work to resolve all the issues existing among some of them by eliminating the basis of any likely tensions and the bolstering of the atmosphere of confidence among them.

Out of our profound belief in the close link between security and development, we believe it is necessary for our nation to adopt a balanced comprehensive development plan that will help further the common interests of our countries and strengthen ties among our people and create the objective means for the stability and prosperity of our Arab nation.

Your Majesty, excellencies: The early signs of the international community's realization of the need for speeding up the settlement of the Middle East conflict and the solution of the Palestinian question prompt us to be optimistic. While we welcome the efforts being exerted for the establishment of peace in this region, which has suffered for long from repeated wars, we sincerely hope that the changes that have taken place in the international arena since last August will have no negative effects on these efforts and that these initiatives will crystalize in a firm international stance that will impose the will of peace within the framework of international legitimacy.

At this crucial stage, our Arab nation is called upon to regain its cohesion and solidarity so as to play an effective role in laying down the basis of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

In this respect, we wish to affirm the effective role the Arab Maghreb countries have been shouldering in support of the Palestinian question on the Arab and international arenas. This role qualifies them to participate in the peace process in a manner that will bolster the position of our Palestinian brothers and help safeguard legitimate Palestinian and Arab rights.

Dear brothers: One of the achievements that our union succeeded in achieving is that promising dialogue that we embarked upon with our European partners, either in the framework of our relations with the four European countries situated on the western part of the Mediterranean Sea, or in the framework of our relations with the European Economic Community as a whole. We believe that this dialogue, which has in our view a distinguished civilizational dimension, should constitute an opportunity for the establishment of a new type of balanced relations between the South and the North. Proceeding from this premise, we are relying heavily on the summit of the nine countries that Tunisia will host early next year in order to draw the outlines for the future sought for our relations with our European partners. We also believe that our dialogue with Europe must be matched by a similar dialogue with the countries of the African continent where our roots are firmly established. There is no doubt that the political and economic transformations taking place in these countries call on us to commit ourselves to the duty of solidarity with them now more than ever before.

Therefore, we hope that our meeting in this Arab Maghreb council will be an opportunity to study together ways to consolidate the ties of cooperation with our African brethren in all fields.

Your Majesty, as I end this speech, I would like to renew my most sincere expressions of thanks and gratitude to you and to the fraternal Moroccan people. I pray that God will help us succeed for the good of our peoples and our union. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

[Moroccan King Hassan II] Now I think we can adjourn the session. We will meet later this evening. Tomorrow, God willing, we might conclude our proceedings in the late afternoon. I now declare the session adjourned.

Leaders Hold Closed Session

LD1609080191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] We have just been informed that the fourth regular session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Presidential Council was resumed at 2115 Tunis time [2015 GMT] at the Mansour Hotel in Casablanca. The closed session was chaired by Moroccan King, King Hassan II, with the participation of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya, and Libyan Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. [Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 0600 GMT on 16 September adds: "The AMU summit conference continued in a closed session last night at the place of stay of the AMU leaders at the royal Mansour Hotel." The radio goes on to note: "The Maghreb summit is expected to resume at noon today. This will be the final session which will be crowned with the resolutions reached."]

Tunisia's Ben Ali, Algeria's Bendjedid Meet

LD1609081391 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had talks at 2100 Tunisia time last night at Casablanca with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in the presence of the foreign ministers of both countries, Habib Ben Yahia and Lakhdar Ibrahim.

The official spokesman of the Presidency stated that the talks covered bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them as well as issues on the agenda of the Arab Maghreb summit conference and the need for bolstering Maghreb action in a manner that would promote cooperation among the Maghreb countries and guarantee their integration.

Possible Saudi-Syrian-Iranian Security Pact

JN1209112291 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
12 Sep 91 p 28

[Text] Paris—Well informed Arab sources said that Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia are preparing to sign a collective defense and security pact within a three-party axis made up of the three countries.

The sources asserted to AL-RA'Y that Egypt expressed great dissatisfaction with this idea to all Arab and non-Arab parties. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa informed the Saudi and Syrian sides of Egypt's rejection of such an agreement and stressed that Egypt will fight this axis by all means.

Informed circles think the reason behind the recent major public dispute between Iran and Egypt was Iran's leading support of the idea of the Iranian-Syrian-Saudi security axis.

When asked about this in Cairo, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' did not give a categorical denial, but said there exists a joint Saudi-Syrian-Iranian dialogue to coordinate and monitor all developments.

Observers confirm that Egypt is currently seeking to convince the Syrian and Saudi sides that Iran's participation in an axis with Arab parties will adversely affect the Arab-Israeli peace process, and that Iran is not an Arab, but a neighboring country, with which consultations can be conducted according to certain conditions.

Arab League Chief Comments on 96th Session

NC1209182491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT
12 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isma' 'Abd-al-Majid commented on the conclusion of the 96th session of the Arab foreign ministers council, saying that the results produced and the level at which the meeting was held prove that the Arab world is seeking unity to heal the rift.

'Abd-al-Majid added that the meeting was a vivid embodiment of the Arab nation and that pan-Arab interests were expressed during the session. He added that he is not talking about mere slogans, but about a conviction of principles of the Arab League, the home and bastion of the Arabs. The secretary general said that the results of the Cairo meeting are evidence that serious work is being done.

The serious work undertaken in the past two days by the political, economic, administrative, and financial committees yielded results which we will follow up, he added, stressing his eagerness to carry out the assignments the council gave him.

'Abd-al-Majid said his speech opening the Arab League Council session contained five points, which could outline a general framework within which Arab reconciliation could be achieved.

The secretary general said that the first point is to work out practical formulas and effective mechanisms to prevent a recurrence of what happened in the Arab Gulf on 2 August 1990, including the formation of the Arab peace-keeping forces. He said that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was a serious matter that cannot be discarded easily.

The results of the Gulf war must be kept in check, he said, adding that inter-Arab differences and problems must be acknowledged and efforts must be exerted to deal with and eliminate them. He pointed out that

differences do exist and must be dealt with and eliminated in a rational way without the use of flattering language, which has become a style used at the expense of Arab interests.

The Arab League secretary general noted: The points that have been raised include the complete commitment to the provisions of the Arab League Charter and to Arab and international legitimacy and the importance of establishing an Arab court of justice to serve as a judicial body to whose rules we will be committed and whose decisions we will implement.

We must accept and abide by the verdict of this court as a judicial body and not allow disputes to escalate to the use of arms, adding that it is inconceivable that the court would issue a verdict to which we would not abide, he added.

The Arab League secretary general emphasized that every possible effort will be exerted to rebuild confidence among the Arab League member states, noting that practice generates confidence. He said that one must not be too optimistic or forget the difficulties we are now experiencing and the wounds that have not yet healed.

The challenges we are facing are too large and serious for us to ignore, forget, or circumvent because they influence the Arab nation and its security, development, and future, the league's chief added.

The secretary general discussed the session's achievements, saying that the ministers reviewed the main issue of the Arab world and that an agreement was reached to draft a resolution on the need for the Arab nation to be united. The council, he added, asked him to help coordinate among the parties concerned out of eagerness that the Arabs will participate in the Middle East peace conference. The Arab countries welcome the peace conference, he stressed, noting that the Arabs are seeking a comprehensive peace.

The peace we seek is a just peace which has its conditions and bases, he said, adding that there can be no negotiations about Jerusalem because we will not give up Jerusalem. 'Abd-al-Majid said preparations for the peace conference and the importance of coordination among the parties concerned was discussed at the conference.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the conferees discussed the Lebanese issue and decided to support and back that nation, adding that the implementation of Resolution 425 on southern Lebanon is not linked to the international peace conference. Lebanon, he said, will participate in the conference because it is one of the frontline states.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the Iraqi people's suffering and the Kuwaiti POW's and detainees in Iraq were also discussed, adding that the conference asked for his help in resolving this issue.

The secretary general said that the conferees also discussed the Arab-European dialogue and how to enhance it, the Arab-African dialogue, technical assistance for the

African states, and developments in Somalia. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the situation there has begun to calm and that the committee on Somalia will meet in Cairo soon to discuss developments.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that Arab water security was discussed at the conference and that a call was made to convene an Arab water conference within the Arab League framework because the water issue is serious and important. We have experts in this field that we are proud of, he added.

Amending the league charter was another topic of discussion. It has been decided, he added, to add Libya and Qatar to the membership of the seven-way committee at their request. The nine-member committee will have to submit its report to the Arab League Council's next session.

The council discussed the establishment of an Arab court of justice. 'Abd-al-Majid said, noting that the only debate now is about the court's jurisdiction and whether its rulings will be compulsory or voluntary.

We sympathize with the suffering of the Iraqi people because of the blockade, the secretary general said, adding: At the same time, however, we sympathize with the Kuwaiti POW's and detainees and detainees from other nationalities in Iraq. The Iraqi foreign minister has said that his country is committed to the full implementation of all UN resolutions, 'Abd-al-Majid stressed.

The Arab League secretary general said that the Arab League Secretariat's budget was ratified and urged the various Arab countries to expedite the payment of their contributions to the budget.

The Arab foreign ministers council decided to lift the ban on some international companies and to delay lifting the ban on others, he said.

In conclusion, 'Abd-al-Majid said the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers' council achieved its objective, noting that important sideline meetings were held on the periphery of the conference as well. An Arab summit is absolutely out of question, he said.

The secretary general greeted Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister and chairman of the previous session, who assumed the chairmanship in the crucial circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. He also praised the efforts of Faris Buways, Lebanon's foreign minister and chairman of the current session, in running the conference sessions.

The Arab foreign ministers' council began its meetings at league headquarters in Cairo the day before yesterday, Tuesday, where they discussed the problems and issues concerning the Arab nation.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Connection With UNIFIL Incident Denied

JN1309122291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] In Tunis, Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Yasser Arafat, said that the PLO has no relationship with the group that kidnapped the French soldiers in southern Lebanon. He recalled that the PLO presented the weapons of its forces in southern Lebanon as a gift to the Lebanese Army. Abu-Sharif asserted that the PLO is making intensive efforts to convene a peace conference that leads to an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, including the southern strip.

Israeli Hand Over Demand Rejected

LD1309173291 London KUNA in Arabic 1347 GMT
13 Sep 91

[Text] Al-Naqurah, 13 Sep (KUNA)—UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] today rejected an Israeli demand to hand over members of a Palestinian Fedayeen group who had seized a number of UN forces after its failure to infiltrate into Israel.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Geksel told KUNA by telephone that the Palestinian group surrendered after few hours of hard negotiations with UNIFIL after releasing the UN men it had seized.

He added that the UN soldiers belong to a French contingent of UNIFIL and that two of them were wounded during the operation. A Swiss soldier and a Palestinian were killed.

A KUNA correspondent here stated that a number of Israeli military naval units and helicopters were seen off the al-Naqurah coast and over it.

Israel is trying to have members of the Palestinian Fedayeen group handed over to it, but military sources told KUNA that the Fedayeen will be handed over to the Lebanese authorities.

'Arafat Receives Message From Soviet Leadership

LD1409193291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasser 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, received an important message from the Soviet leadership today dealing with the developments and contacts concerning the peace process in the Middle East.

The message contains the results of the discussions on the Middle East held by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Moscow recently.

Brother president Abu 'Ammar received the message in Tunis this morning when he met the Soviet ambassador.

Al-Husayni Discusses Coming Talks With Baker

JN1509175691 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
8 Sep 91 p 10

[By Hafiz al-Barghuthi]

[Text] Jerusalem—Faysal al-Husayni, member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with the United States, said that U.S. President George Bush's decision to postpone the discussion on granting financial guarantees to Israel means that Washington began to put pressure on Israel and on the Palestinians as well. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHA'B, al-Husayni added that Washington is exerting double pressure with this decision. It is a factor of pressure on Israel; and simultaneously, Washington might ask us to make concessions in return for this pressure.

Al-Husayni noted that, in his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during the latter's coming tour of the region, he will examine the U.S. position to see if the decision is a factor of pressure on Israel only, or on the Palestinians as well.

Al-Husayni affirmed that the Palestinian side adheres to its request for specific U.S. guarantees before the convening of the conference, like the guarantees which the United States promised to give to the other parties, particularly Israel. He added: "We believe that the conference is a method to achieve peace; the conference is not a goal in itself. Meanwhile, the Israelis are trying to achieve political gains before the convening of the conference as if the conference is a goal in itself."

Faysal al-Husayni noted that we believe that obtaining guarantees has become a decisive issue for us. We cannot even concede some issues which are called procedural within the proposed scenario for the convening of the conference, such as deferring the issue of Jerusalem. Al-Husayni noted that the U.S. guarantees to Israel include the deferring of discussion on the issue of Jerusalem. At the same time, the Americans give us a guarantee that this issue will be discussed later. It is as if we are not invited to breakfast, but rather to lunch. However, there are no guarantees that we will have food. The invitation does not mean we get to eat.

Al-Husayni said that the Americans might reach an agreement on a declaration of principles instead of giving guarantees, because the guarantees might contradict each other and some of these guarantees might annul each other in some articles. This, consequently, will obstruct the work of the conference.

Al-Husayni defined the major Palestinian demands. He said that if differences emerged in the conference, the point of reference should be international law and the UN resolutions, because we refuse to enter a conference whose reference is the number of the tanks possessed by the Israeli side while we do not have a single tank.

Faysal al-Husayni said there should be an acknowledgement, in one way or another, that the PLO is the point of

reference for the Palestinian delegation in terms of naming members, appointing experts, and resolving any problems that might occur among the members of the Palestinian delegation. In addition, UN Resolutions 242 and 338 call for Israeli withdrawal and an end to the occupation. Jerusalem is part of the occupied territory. Therefore, the decision to annex it is void and the results of this decision are also void. Also among the Palestinian demands is the freezing of settlement-building during the negotiations, and placing all natural, human, judicial, legislative, and economic sources under Palestinian authority during the transitional period.

Regarding the negotiating capability of the Palestinian side, al-Husayni said that the file for the Palestinian negotiator is almost ready. We began to prepare the file. We have not entered the negotiating stage. Focus is put on political matters and on convening the conference. Regarding the details of the negotiations, we need a negotiating team supported by documents, studies, and legal and economic experts. Even the formation of the negotiating team has not been crystallized yet. The file will be ready when the decision to hold negotiations is taken.

Qaddumi Denies Expulsion of Muhammad 'Abbas

LD1209192591 Algiers Voice of Palestine
in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, conferred on the fringes of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo last night with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Brother Abu-al-Lutf stated that stances concerning the march of the peace process were coordinated, the latest developments of the situation were examined, and Arab cooperation was bolstered in a bid to help the Arab nation regain its previous unity and promote good intentions to consolidate the Arab stance on joint action.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf added that Israel has been adopting an intransigent stance hindering the peace process; the world should understand that the Palestinian desire for peace does not mean that the Palestinian people would abandon its rights stipulated by international resolutions. He stressed that the PLO has the right to represent the Palestinian people and choose any delegation to international forums.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf categorically denied reports on the possibility of expelling brother Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation front] from the Executive Committee as a condition for the resumption of the American-Palestinian dialogue. He asserted that such rumors are aimed at harming the PLO's political standing and pointed out that the Palestine National Council will be seeking Palestinian unanimity on the path which ought to be followed in next phase.

Islamic Jihad Group To Attend PNC Session

*JN1609091991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
16 Sep 91 p 12*

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—The Islamic Jihad Organization, al-Aqsa Battalions, yesterday announced its decision to take part in the Palestine National Council [PNC] session scheduled to be convened in Algiers on 23 September.

In a statement yesterday, the organization attributed its decision to its desire to close Palestinian ranks in order to confront the challenges of the current stage.

Israel Blocking Attendance at PNC Session

*JN1409173391 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 14 Sep 91*

[Text] The Zionist entity refused to allow Palestine National Council [PNC] members residing in the occupied homeland from leaving for Algiers to attend the PNC session and then return home.

This was announced by Jean-Claude Aime, adviser to the UN secretary general for Middle Eastern affairs, during his meeting the day before yesterday with Riyad Mansur, deputy head of the Palestinian mission to the United Nations.

Jean-Claude Aime requested that the PNC members be allowed to leave and return safely during an official meeting with the Israeli envoy the day before yesterday. The Israeli envoy gave Jean-Claude Aime his government's decisive and negative response.

Jean-Claude Aime promised to continue his efforts and discuss the issue with U.S. envoy Thomas Pickering.

It is worth mentioning that the PLO sent letters to the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council and to the UN secretary general asking them to pressure Israel to allow the PNC members residing in the occupied territories to attend the PNC's next session in Algiers.

Egypt

Musa Affirms Importance of Baker's Visit

NC1309110491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT
13 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed the importance of the visit which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will pay to Cairo on Tuesday as part of his tour of the region. In a statement today, Musa said that this visit takes place at a "critical time", especially as we are approaching the targeted date for the Middle East peace conference.

Musa added that Baker's visit follows the important stands U.S. President George Bush has taken to push forward the peace process and confirm the importance of the peaceful approach of the states concerned.

This will be the seventh tour of the Middle East which Baker will undertake following the liberation of Kuwait with the aim of pushing forward the peace process in the region.

During their recent summit in Moscow, U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that they would work to convene the Middle East peace conference in October.

Views Recent U.S. Moves

NC1309192991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will visit Egypt on Tuesday as part of his seventh tour to the Middle East to give momentum to regional peace efforts.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that Baker's visit is of singular significance because it comes in the wake of the important stand made by U.S. President George Bush to stimulate the regional peace process. Bush yesterday threatened Congress with a veto to dissuade it from discussing Israel's request for loan guarantees of \$10 billion to finance the settlement of new Jewish immigrants for the next four months. Bush said that the move is an attempt to give the peace process a chance, stressing that discussions on the Israeli request now would impede the regional peace process and undermine efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference.

Previews Baker Visit

NC1509151391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT
15 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed Egypt's hope that James Baker's tours of the Middle East will lead to establishing peace in the region. Musa described Baker's upcoming tour of the Middle East, during which he will visit Egypt, as "an extremely important tour" in light of the accelerating events concerning the Middle East, Palestinian, settlements and other issues.

Musa pointed out that Baker's coming tour will precede the Middle East peace conference scheduled for October. He affirmed that Egypt supports the convening of the peace conference within this specific period, in view of the tremendous efforts that already had been exerted toward that end and because little remains to be accomplished. The foreign minister said Egypt hopes that these peaceful endeavors will succeed and that Baker's extensive tours will culminate with achieving peace in the Middle East.

Musa noted that an agreement needs to be reached on a number of points, such as the specific date of the Middle East peace conference, its venue, and a number of other topics on which an agreement has yet to be reached. He added that these points will be subject to discussion during Baker's coming visit to Egypt as part of his tour of the region.

Concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, Musa said consultations continue on this. The Egyptian foreign minister added: I prefer not to talk about this issue at present and to wait for the outcome of the talks with the U.S. secretary of state, whose coming visit we view as "extremely important."

Regarding the proposed venue of the Middle East peace conference, Musa said several locations are proposed, and European states suggested approximately 10 cities for hosting the conference. He pointed out that all these proposals are under study and discussion.

Turning to inter-Arab coordination before the conference, Musa said the bilateral consultations between Egypt and each of the various parties concerned, as well as the contacts made among these various parties, constitute the necessary coordination during the current stage. He added that any further coordination will be considered according to the requirements of the coming stages on the road toward convening the peace conference. Musa pointed out in this respect that inter-Arab consultations will be held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's coming session and that contacts will continue on this matter.

Regarding the Israeli impediments to the peace process, Musa said any impediment or request to delay the process is "an action against the peace process itself," adding that the peace process must not be subject to the wish of a certain party because it is a process common to all parties. He pointed out that whoever stalls the peace process will bear "major historical responsibility."

Musa expressed confidence that the administration of U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker is working "sincerely" on building the peace process as "an important and historic" matter. He stressed Egypt's support for the U.S. position and initiative and described what has been achieved so far as a tremendous accomplishment for the peace process. He voiced Egypt's hope that this process will not halt because of "certain positions" known to the entire

world, particularly on the issue of settlements and insistence on some points that only can be tackled through mutual agreement and respect for the international legitimacy and UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 425 and 338. He said these resolutions stress the inadmissibility of seizing others' territories by force and emphasize the right of all countries to live in peace within secure borders, while showing respect for the Palestinian people's rights. He added that there is an authentic international interpretation of Security Council Resolution 425 over which there is no dispute.

Jordan's al-Nasur on Bush Decision, PLO

NC1309171691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT
13 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nasur left Cairo tonight after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he took part in the 96th session of the Arab League Council, which ended yesterday.

In a departure statement, the Jordanian foreign minister described his visit to Egypt as successful, saying that during his talks with President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian officials, an agreement was reached to remove the reasons for some misunderstandings between the two countries and to work toward complete coordination on various levels.

Al-Nasur said that he also discussed how to remove all the extraordinary measures applied to the travel of citizens of both countries to preserve the achievements of 10 years of strong bilateral ties.

The Jordanian foreign minister said that U.S. President George Bush's decision to postpone granting loan guarantees to Israel is a new development, adding that he was satisfied with this decision, which makes U.S. policy on the international peace conference and peace efforts more realistic and balanced.

Al-Nasur said that his country is waiting for the results of the Palestine National Council meeting on 23 September concerning Palestinian representation at the conference.

Jordan supports three alternatives concerning the Palestinian representation in the conference, he stressed, adding: They can participate as part of a joint Arab delegation; form a joint Palestinian delegation; or participate within a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, which is the most acceptable.

Al-Nasur said that his country has not received a Palestinian reply concerning Palestinian participation in the peace conference or a list of names of the Palestinian delegation.

The Jordanian foreign minister said that no country and no one has the right to determine who is going to represent the Palestinian people except the Palestinians themselves.

Israeli Reaction to Bush's Stand Criticized

NC1409135891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Ministry spokesman Naji al-Ghatrifi has criticized the allegations by certain Israeli officials that U.S. President George Bush's firm stand on the loan guarantee question will result in a hardening of the Arab position and obstruct the peace process. He described such Israeli claims as groundless.

In a statement today, al-Ghatrifi said that regardless of the fact that the U.S. step conforms with certain just Arab demands—which can hardly be called inflexible—it was taken to safeguard the peace process and protect U.S. interests.

Reactor Installation Postponed 'Indefinitely'

NC1409074291 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
12 Sep 91 p 1

[By 'Adil Sabri]

[Text] The Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority has decided to defer the installation of a new experimental nuclear reactor in Anshas indefinitely. Sources have indicated that the decision was made due to the strong pressure being put on Egypt by the United States and certain European countries which sought to prevent it from installing the reactor.

Furthermore, the European companies that had been supplied with the desired specifications of the reactor refused to study the bid, even though it was announced nine months ago.

Kuwaiti Amir To Discuss Security, Ties 18 Sep

NC1509140091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1311 GMT
15 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Egypt welcomes the visit of Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah will pay to Cairo on Wednesday, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa declared today.

Musa added that the amir of Kuwait's visit aims at furthering Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations following the severe crisis Kuwait faced last year. The visit also will consolidate joint Arab action, given that the Egyptian-Kuwaiti talks fall within the framework of inter-Arab coordination.

Musa said several issues will be discussed during the visit, including Gulf security, the implementation of the Damascus Declaration, the situation in the Arab world, and bilateral relations.

Kuwait**Soviet Union's Primakov Continues Visit****Pledges Aid To Release Prisoners***LD1509222291 London KUNA in Arabic 1836 GMT
15 Sep 91*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 15 Sep (KUNA)—A senior Soviet official currently visiting Kuwait promised that his country would make diligent efforts to contribute to the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners detained by the Iraqi regime.

The pledge of the Soviet official, Mr. Yevgeniy Primakov, who is the personal envoy of the Soviet president, came during a meeting he held in Kuwait today with Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamud 'Abdallah al-Raqubah to discuss the participation of the Soviet Union in Kuwait's reconstruction plans, especially in the oil industry. Dr. al-Raqubah said in statements he made after the meeting that the Soviet envoy pledged that efforts made by his country would be escalated to ensure the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners and prisoners of other nationalities whose number is estimated at 2400 prisoners. He also said that Primakov told him that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is exercising his international influence for the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners from the Iraqi jails. He added that during his talks with the Soviet envoy he stressed the humanitarian nature of the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and the pain caused by their detention to all Kuwaitis. Minister al-Raqubah said that he discussed with the Soviet envoy the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Moscow. [passage omitted] The visiting Soviet envoy today toured oil fields on fire, where he saw for himself the disaster caused by the Iraqi regime to the Kuwaiti oil industry. [passage omitted]

Delivers Gorbachev Message*LD1609101691 London KUNA in Arabic 0905 GMT
16 Sep 91*

[Text] Kuwait City, 16 Sep (KUNA)—His highness the amir of the State of Kuwait this morning received His Excellency Yevgeniy Primakov, the envoy of his excellency the president of the USSR and the accompanying delegation, who delivered to his highness—may God keep him safe—a message from His Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The adviser in the office of his highness, Muhammad Sulayman Sid 'Ali, the Ambassador of the USSR to Kuwait, and the director of the office of his highness, Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti, attended the audience.

Disguised Iraqi Soldiers Occupy Border Post*NC1609103191 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT
16 Sep 91*

[Text] Kuwait City, Sept 16 (AFP)—Seventy Iraqi soldiers disguised as civilians seized and occupied a Kuwaiti police post west of here Sunday before being driven out by Kuwaiti troops, a provincial governor charged Monday.

One Iraqi was seriously wounded in the incident at Al-Abraq police post in the province of Al-Jahrah. Shaykh Ibrahim al-Du'ayj al-Sabah told the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI.

"The Iraqi aggression against the police post at Al-Abraq began Saturday night but was checked after the intervention of the Kuwaiti Army," Shaykh Ibrahim said.

"But after Kuwaiti forces withdrew, the aggressors returned to occupy the post at 9.00 a.m. (0600 GMT) on Sunday and were later driven out by Kuwaiti troops, who are now in complete control of the situation."

It was the third Iraqi intrusion alleged by Kuwait since August 28, when Kuwaiti authorities said they arrested 45 Iraqi soldiers on the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan.

Iraq denied that there had been any military operation in the area and said those seized were arms traffickers who had returned to Bubiyan to gather weapons left over from the Gulf war.

Western diplomats also disputed the Kuwaiti version and suggested that authorities here had exaggerated the incident in a bid to secure defense accords with Western countries.

Officials here on September 10 announced that a group of Iraqis clashed with a Kuwaiti patrol along Kuwait's northern border, leaving a Kuwaiti policeman dead and two Iraqis wounded.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-Uthman acknowledged there was no proof that Iraqi troops had been involved and said the intruders were probably smugglers.

Interior Ministry Denies Report*NC1609121691 Paris AFP in English 1103 GMT
16 Sep 91*

[Text] Kuwait City, Sept 16 (AFP)—Kuwaiti police killed a smuggler—who was probably Iraqi—and wounded two others in a confrontation inside a demilitarized zone along the Iraq-Kuwait border, Western military experts and and Kuwaiti Interior Ministry sources said Monday.

The ministry denied earlier published reports that a police post west of here had been occupied by 70 Iraqi soldiers dressed as civilians.

Western sources said police instead exchanged fire early Sunday with smugglers inside the zone, which was established after the Gulf war and extends 10 kilometers (seven miles) inside Iraq and five kilometers (three miles) inside Kuwait.

One smuggler died in the shootout and two were reported wounded, they said, adding that there were no casualties among the Kuwaitis.

Such incidents are relatively frequent in the zone, where smugglers believed to be Iraqi do a brisk business in arms and alcohol.

The office of the governor of Jahra province meanwhile said a Kuwaiti newspaper, SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI, had "exaggerated" remarks by the governor, Shaykh Ibrahim al-Du'ayj al-Sabah.

Shaykh Ibrahim, according to the paper, had said 70 Iraqi soldiers disguised as civilians had seized and occupied a Kuwaiti police post at al-Abraq before being driven out by Kuwaiti troops.

Paper on Details of Security Pact With U.S.
*NC1409104091 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT
14 Sep 91*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 14 (AFP)—A Gulf daily Saturday published what it said was the planned security pact between the United States and Kuwait, saying Washington would pay for storing its weapons in the emirate.

AL-KHALIJ newspaper said the U.S. Defense and State Departments had completed drafting the pact, under which American aircraft and troops would be deployed in Kuwait, and that it was ready for signing.

The agreement will provide Washington with facilities at the Kuwaiti air base of 'Ali al-Salim, including the deployment of U.S. jets and technical teams and the presence of American naval units at a Kuwaiti base, as well as the port of al-Shuwaykh, the United Arab Emirates Arabic-language daily said.

It said the United States would underwrite the cost of stockpiling its own weapons in Kuwait provided U.S. forces use them, without objection from Kuwait, at any time to defend any country requesting protection.

"The U.S. has also agreed to the presence of token American troops on Kuwaiti territory to help rebuild the Kuwaiti army," it said in its front-page report from Washington.

The paper gave no source for its report, which came a week after Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah said he would soon travel to Washington to sign the pact.

The treaty, prompted by fears of another Iraqi attack, follows the collapse of proposals for a joint Arab force, that could have brought together troops from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, plus Syria and Egypt.

AL-KHALIJ said the three-chapter pact also stipulates that Kuwait not transfer the weapons it obtains from the U.S. to any other party or use them for offensive purposes.

It said the weapons to be stockpiled by the United States included air-to-air and ground-to-air missiles, anti-ship Harpoon rockets, communications systems and artillery radars.

The pact, which also involves joint military exercises, covers other Gulf states, the paper said, but it did not name them.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Telephone Call From Bush
*LD1409181691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT
14 Sep 91*

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call today from U.S. President George Bush.

During the call, the two reviewed the new developments in the Arab and international arenas and ways of bolstering the current efforts for the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace throughout the region in a manner that will bring security, stability, and prosperity for its countries and peoples.

The telephone call also provided an opportunity for continuing the efforts to bolster and entrench bilateral relations between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the friendly United States in various fields.

USSR's Primakov Ends Visit, Departs 14 Sep
*LD1409090191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0736 GMT
14 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] 14 September, 1991 (SPA)—Mr. Yevgeniy Primakov, the special envoy of the Soviet president, left Jeddah this morning at the end of a visit to the Kingdom during which he delivered a message to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd, from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar Visits

Meets King Fahd

*LD1309180291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT
13 Sep 91*

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 13 Sep (SPA)—Today at his office in al-Salam Palace King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his delegation. [passage omitted]

Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Jeddah earlier today. [passage omitted]

Meets Prince Sultan

*LD1409224191 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT
14 Sep 91*

[Text] Jeddah, Sep 14 (SPA)—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, minister of defense and aviation, received at his office here Saturday UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The UN top official arrived in Jeddah on Friday and met with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd.

Notes 'Strong Support' on Afghanistan

NC1409182491 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sept 14 (AFP)—United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said here Saturday he received "strong support" from Saudi Arabia for his efforts to resolve the Afghan conflict.

Saudi Arabia is a key backer of Sunni Muslim rebel groups that have formed an Afghan provisional government.

I got very strong support from the Saudis," the U.N. head told AFP before wrapping up a visit here which was preceded by talks in Tehran with Iranian officials, Afghan rebel leaders and the Pakistani president.

Perez de Cuellar, who Friday held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal in this western city, declined to reveal the nature of the Saudi support but said he was optimistic about finding a solution on Afghanistan.

Although the mujahedin rebels still refused to negotiate with Afghan President Najibollah, he said, "Now we have assurances that the government of Najibollah could be prepared to sit down with the mujahedin."

He said once he received similar assurances from the rebels, he could "start to work with the mujahedin groups in order to organize a meeting that could be the beginning of what I can call a transitional period which will bring all Afghans together and which will end up by elections." [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1409165791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Sep (SPA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left Jeddah today. He was seen off at King 'Abd- al-'Aziz International Airport by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Ambassador 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad al-Nuwaysir chief of protocol at the Saudi Foreign Ministry; UN representative to the Kingdom; and a representative of the Saudi Royal Protocol Department.

United Arab Emirates

Soviet Union's Primakov Arrives for Visit

JN1409102191 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates
Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Yevgeniy Primakov, personal adviser to Soviet President Gorbachev, arrived in our country today from Jeddah on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] within the framework of his current tour of a number of states in the region. [passage omitted]

Delivers Gorbachev Message

JN1409163091 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 14 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan today received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The message was handed over to Abu Dhabi crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces by Yevgeniy Primakov, special envoy of President Gorbachev [who] expressed appreciation and thanks for the honourable stands of President Shaykh Zayid, the UAE Government and people during the recent events in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet envoy, affirming his country's determination to further strengthen its bonds with the UAE, briefed Shaykh Khalifah on the recent developments in the Soviet Union.

From his side, Shaykh Khalifah expressed admiration over the flourishing economic and political relations between the two countries, affirming the UAE-Soviet joint desire to bolster cooperation and friendship bonds between them.

Shaykh Khalifah and the Soviet envoy exchanged views on issues of mutual concern and discussed the situation in the Gulf region in particular as well as efforts being exerted to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The envoy's visit to the UAE is part of a tour of a number of states in the Gulf and Middle East regions.

Views Arab Ties, Peace Conference

JN1409190391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Sep (WAKH)—Yevgeniy Primakov, personal adviser to the Soviet president, affirmed that relations between the USSR and the Arab countries will remain strong regardless of the current changes in the USSR. In a statement to journalists here this evening, Primakov said that the new view of Soviet-Arab relations centers on promoting trade relations and deepening economic relations between the two sides after the Soviet relations with some Arab countries were established on an ideological basis in the past.

Asked about the Soviet role in the proposed Middle East peace conference and the possibility of convening it next month, Primakov said that it is not important whether the conference will be convened in October or afterward; the important thing is that the USSR will play a big role in the work to render the conference a success.

Regarding reports that the Soviet Union abandoned demands to establish a Palestinian state, Primakov said his country has not abandoned that demand, but endeavors to achieve an appropriate settlement acceptable to the Palestinian people.

Regarding Palestinian representation to the peace conference, he said choosing the representatives of the Palestinian people is a matter of concern to the Palestinian people. He added: "We consider the PLO a representative for the Palestinian people and we agree to the Palestinians' participation in the conference in any delegation or form, provided such a decision is made by the Palestinians themselves."

Regarding the tendency toward independence by many Soviet republics, Primakov said the Soviet leadership does not object to certain republics gaining their independence, especially since those republics have agreed that the Soviet Union should have a united [word indistinct] army.

Ends Visit, Departs

JN1509065991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT
15 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Yevgeniy Primakov, personal adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev left Abu Dhabi this morning for Kuwait following a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] within his current tour in the region.

During his visit, the Soviet official conveyed a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Saddam Reelected; New Party Command Elected

CM1609164191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Comrade leader Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, yesterday presided over a meeting for the comrades of the new Regional Command of the party.

An official spokesman for the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, announced yesterday [13 September] evening that the Regional Congress of the party concluded its meetings by electing the Regional Command. The congress began its meetings the day before yesterday, after the party organizations throughout the country completed their party congresses held during the past weeks. At these congresses, party leaderships at all levels were elected.

The spokesman announced that the congress unanimously reelected leader Comrade Saddam Husayn secretary of the Regional Command. At the beginning of the congress, Comrade Saddam Husayn delivered a comprehensive speech in which he dealt with all the political, theoretical, social, and economic affairs of the stage. He defined the tasks of the coming stage in all these fields.

The spokesman announced the names of the new command:

Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim—who was reelected by the command as the deputy secretary of the Regional Command in its first meeting held this evening—Comrades 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Kamil Yasin, Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Tariq 'Aziz, Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Mizban Khadir Hadi, Muhammad Izam al-Sa'dun, Taha Yasin Ramadan, Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, Khadir 'Abd-al-'Aziz, 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahamd, Nuri Faysal Shahir, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghufur, Mizhir Matni, and Fawzi Khalaf.

The spokesman said that more details about the work of the congress, the progress of its measures, and the votes received by the winners and those who did not win in the elections will be published in the newspapers the day after tomorrow.

The spokesman also announced that a detailed political statement will be issued in the next days containing the details of the speech of leader President Saddam Husayn and the discussions of the congress.

Prime Minister Hammadi Relieved of Post

JN1309204891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 2037 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Republican Decree No. (?442),

In light of the results of the elections endorsed by the 10th Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the congress of (?jihad) and constructions; and in

accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi shall be relieved of his post.

The prime minister and the ministers shall be implement this decree.

[Dated] 13 September 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic.

Relieved of RCC Post

JN1309210091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 2040 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Revolution Command Council [RCC].

Decision No. 338 on 13 September 1991.

Decision:

In light of the results of the elections endorsed by the 10th Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the congress of jihad and construction; and in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 38 of the Constitution, the RCC decided the following:

1. RCC member Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi shall be relieved of his membership in the Council.
2. The competent parties shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC.

'Not Been Feeling Well'

JN1409191491 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the United Nations, Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari said yesterday that Hammadi was not dismissed in the literal sense, but had not been feeling well for some time, and had probably asked to be replaced.

[Begin recording] [Al-Anbari in progress] dismissed in the literal sense of the word, because for a long time he has not been feeling well. More likely, he has, sort of, requested that he should be replaced. But this is my personal impression because I have not really received the details.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Ambassador, do you have word on who might replace Mr. Hammadi?

[Al-Anbari] Already has been designated. He was a former vice premier, Mr. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. [end recording]

Al-Zubaydi New Prime Minister

JN1309205291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 2043 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Presidential Decree No. 443. In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi shall be appointed to the post of prime minister.

The ministers shall implement this decree.

[Dated] Baghdad, 13 September 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Hasan 'Ali Relieved of Membership in RCC

JN1309210991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 2042 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Revolution Command Council [RCC].

Decision No. 339, dated 13 September 1991.

In light of the results of the elections that were decided by the 10th Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the congress of jihad and construction; and in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 38 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. Hasan 'Ali Nassar, RCC member shall be relieved of his membership in the Council.
2. The competent authorities shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC.

Proceedings of Ba'th Party Congress Detailed

JN1409150591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 1405 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] An official spokesman for the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party announced details of the proceedings of the party's 10th congress—the Congress of Jihad and Construction. The spokesman made it clear that the congress adopted the speech during the congress by comrade leader Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Regional Command of the party, as a basic document setting out the dimensions of the present stage and its missions in all areas.

The spokesman said the congress agreed that this speech, in its theoretical and practical dimensions, should serve

as a guideline for the party's struggle in the coming stage. Following is the text of the official spokesman's statement:

This morning, an official spokesman for the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party issued the following statement:

In the name of God, and under His blessings, the 10th Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—to be named the Congress of Jihad and Construction—was held on Thursday, 4 Rabi' Awwal, 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 12 September 1991, and Friday, 5 Rabi' Awwal, 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 13 September 1991. The congress opened with the chanting of the party slogan "One Arab nation with an immortal message." Surah al-Fatihah was then read for the souls of our virtuous martyrs, the martyrs of the people and the party and the Armed Forces in the glorious battle of Saddam's Qadisiyah, and the martyrs of the major battle, the key battle. This was done in honor of the pure blood that flowed on the soil of the homeland in defense of the land, honor, dignity, independence, and sovereignty so that the banner of "God is great" remains fluttering in the sky of the homeland and in honor of the martyrs of the Arab nation down the road of liberation and unity.

Comrade leader Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Regional Command, opened the conference with an important, historic, comprehensive, wide-ranging speech addressing all issues related to the political, ideological, social, and economic stage. He set forth the missions of the coming stage in all these areas. The speech also reviewed the aspects of the struggle waged by the party and the difficult circumstances the country has experienced and which culminated in clear victory for the people of Iraq. The comrade leader made a wide-ranging review of the circumstances of the key battle and its international and Arab ramifications, and the truth about the aims pursued by the 30-nation aggression and all the realities of the struggle fought by our people in this battle. His excellency discussed in detail economic and social life, including the practical side of both.

The conference decided unanimously to adopt the speech as the basic document determining the dimensions of this stage and its missions in all areas after the comrade leader concluded his historic speech. The congress also agreed that the speech, in its theoretical and practical dimensions, should serve as the guideline for the party's struggle in the coming stage.

In accordance with the working rules of the congress, the Chairmanship Office Committee was then formed to be in charge of running its proceedings. Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim was elected chairman of the congress, Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid was elected deputy chairman, and Comrades Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi and Mizban Khadir Hadi were elected rapporteurs.

In accordance with the provisions of the party bylaws, the responsibility of the present Regional Command

ended and the congress assumed its tasks until a new Regional Command could be elected.

The congress then began its organizational, ideological, and political sessions on the basis of the documents presented. They adopted the appropriate decisions regarding them.

The congress conducted democratic, in-depth, and constructive discussions. These discussions lasted several hours. The discussions dealt with the various aspects of party internal life, the state and society affairs, and the performance of the former Regional Command members of their tasks in the party and the government. Important members of the congress took part in these discussions. Members of the former Regional Command responded to questions and criticism of the performance of their tasks. The discussion ended after everything became clear.

The congress then adopted a number of decisions.

The chairman of the congress called on members willing to run for membership in the Regional Command to declare their candidacy. In accordance with suggestions of a large number of congress members, the congress decided to elect leader Comrade Saddam Husayn secretary of the Regional Command, by the congress itself, after he was elected by the Regional Command itself. The National Command of the party, which was present at the congress, endorsed the congress' decision.

The 10th Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—the Congress of Jihad and Construction—unanimously elected leader Comrade Saddam Husayn secretary of the Regional Command. The announcement of this decision was greeted with a storm of applause. Expressing their will and that of their people, the congress welcomed Comrade Saddam Husayn as leader of the party and people, pinning their hopes—after God—on him to achieve the people's aspirations and asking Almighty God to help him and grant him victory to continue his struggle and jihad. God is the best supporter.

Members willing to run for membership in the new Regional Command were called on to declare their candidacy. The new command consists of the secretary and 16 members. Forty-two candidates registered their names. Elections were conducted by secret ballot. After counting the votes in front of the congress, the results were as follows:

1. Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim received 257 votes.
2. Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, 256 votes.
3. Comrade Kamil Yasin Rashid, 240 votes.
4. Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, 226 votes.
5. Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, 158 votes.
6. Comrade Mizban Khadir Hadi, 179 votes.
7. Comrade Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, 188 votes.
8. Comrade Muhammad Izam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, 175 votes.
9. Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, 199 votes.
10. Comrade Fawzi Khalaf, 83 votes.

11. Comrade Mizhir Matni al-'Awwad, 103 votes.
12. Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, 87 votes.
13. Comrade Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, 149 votes.
14. Comrade Nuri Faysal Shahir, 106 votes.
15. Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, 119 votes.
16. Comrade Khadir 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, 149 votes.
17. Comrade Sa'dun Hammadi, 27 votes.
18. Comrade Hasan 'Ali Nassar, 58 votes.
19. Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, 60 votes.
20. Comrade Zaki (?Fayid) al-'Ali, 28 votes.
21. Comrade Suhayl Muhammad Salih, 62 votes.
22. Comrade Bidawi Hasan, 43 votes.
23. Comrade Manal Yunus 'Abd-al-Razzaq, 74 votes.
24. Comrade 'Ali al-Sa'dun, 43 votes.
25. Comrade 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sayigh, 52 votes.
26. Comrade Tahir Tawfiq al-'Ani, 60 votes.
27. Comrade Tu'mah Dua'yf, 41 votes.
28. Comrade Sayl al-Rawi, 39 votes.
29. Comrade Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, 10 votes.
30. Comrade 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hamid al-Duri, 21 votes.
31. Comrade 'Adil 'Abdallah, 105 votes.
32. Comrade Muslim al-Juburi, 31 votes.
33. Comrade Nashm al-'Iraqi, 50 votes.
34. Comrade 'Arif Nimr Suhayl, 40 votes.
35. Comrade Jubra'il Ishaq, 10 votes.
36. Comrade 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Annad, 49 votes.
37. Comrade 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, 76 votes.
38. Comrade Radi Hasan Salman, 124 votes.
39. Comrade Karim Hasan Rida, 92 votes.
40. Comrade Tali' Khalil Ruhayyim, 99 votes.
41. Comrade Latif Mahal, 77 votes.
42. Comrade Khalid Kafi, 79 votes.

In accordance with the regulations of the party bylaws and tradition, a candidate for the command membership is considered a winner when he wins at least half the votes of the congress members plus one. The required number of members to be elected is 16, but only 11 members won command membership in the first round. Following are the names of the comrades and the number of votes they received:

1. 'Izzat Ibrahim, 257 votes.
2. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, 256 votes.
3. Kamil Yasin Rashid, 240 votes.
4. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, 226 votes.
5. Tariq 'Aziz, 199 votes.
6. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, 188 votes.
7. Mizban Khadir Hadi, 179 votes.
8. Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, 175 votes.
9. Taha Yasin Ramadan, 158 votes.
10. Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, 149 votes.
11. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, 149 votes.

When the required number of the command members are not elected during the first round, another round is held. According to the regulations of elections, only the candidates who won more than a quarter of the votes of the congress may compete for the remaining seats. According to this rule, it was not possible for four of the

former command members to nominate themselves for the second round because they won less than a quarter of the votes. The following comrades are:

1. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, 60 votes.
2. Hasan 'Ali Nassar, 58 votes.
3. Sa'dun Hammadi, 27 votes.
4. Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, 10 votes.

According to party election bylaws, the name of anyone who does not win the confidence of a quarter or more of the attendees of the congress in the first round of elections shall be withdrawn from the list of candidates for the second round to complete the required number of the regional command members. Anyone who wins a quarter of the members' votes is allowed to run in the second round until the required number to be elected for the membership in the Regional Command is completed.

Before beginning the second round of elections, one of the candidates withdrew. Thus, the following members competed in the second round, and won the number votes following their names:

1. 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, 62 votes.
2. Fawzi Khalaf, 63 votes.
3. 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, 44 votes.
4. Radi Hasan Salman, 72 votes.
5. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, 85 votes.
6. Karim Hasan Rida, 52 votes.
7. Tali' Khalil Ruhayyim, 46 votes.
8. Nuri Faysal Shahr, 81 votes.
9. Latif Mahal, 51 votes.
10. Manal Yunus, 51 votes.
11. Mizhir Matni al-'Awwad, 71 votes.
12. Sahl Iskafi, 37 votes.

Following a vote count, it appeared that none of the 12 candidates won the minimum required number of votes—at least, half the votes plus one. According to the rules, a third round was held. Like the first round, those who did not win more than a quarter of the number of votes from those present were excluded. In the third round, results were as follows:

1. 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, 139 votes.
2. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, 160 votes.
3. Mizhir Matni al-'Awwad, 135 votes.
4. 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, 85 votes.
5. Karim Hasan Rida, 85 votes.
6. Tali' Khalil Ruhayyim, 77 votes.
7. Nuri Faysal Shahr, 148 votes.
8. Latif Mahal, 73 votes.
9. Manal Yunus 'Abd-al-Razzaq, 90 votes.
10. Fawzi Khalaf, 126 votes.
11. Radi Hasan, 127 votes.
12. Khalid Kafi, 63 votes.

Thus, the following comrades won membership in the Regional Command:

1. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, 165 votes.

2. Nuri Faysal Shahr, 142 votes.
3. 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, 139 votes.
4. Mizher Matni al-'Awwad, 135 votes.

Since the remaining comrades did not win half the number of required votes, a third round was held among the remaining candidates to fill the remaining vacancy. These were:

1. Fawzi Khalaf.
2. 'Aziz Salih al-Numan.
3. Radi Hasan Salman.
4. Karim Hasan Rida.
5. Tali' Khalil Ruhayyim.
6. Latif Mahal.
7. Manal Yunus.
8. Khalid Kafi.

Since none of the candidates won half the number of the required votes plus one, a fifth round was held. The three comrades who won the greatest number of votes in the previous round contested this round. Those were:

1. Radi Hasan Salman.
2. Fawzi Khalaf.
3. Manal Yunus.

They won the following number of votes.

1. Fawzi Khalaf, 116.
2. Radi Hasan, 114.
3. Manal Yunus, 91.

Since none of them was able to win the required number of votes, a sixth round was contested by comrades Fawzi Khalaf and Radi Hasan Salman. Comrade Fawzi Khalaf won 151 vote, while his contender received only 111 votes. Thus, comrade Fawzi Khalaf became the 17th member of the Regional Command.

Candidates were then nominated for three reserve seats on the Regional Command. Nineteen comrades nominated themselves, and the following comrades won:

1. 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamid, who won 226 votes.
2. Khalil Ibrahim, 206 votes.
3. (?Anwar) Mawlud Dhiban, who won 190 votes.

Three members were absent from the congress because they were engaged in official or party activities outside Iraq.

Membership to the congress of one comrade, 'Abd-al-Hasan Dhahi Far'awn, was canceled after the congress stripped him of his membership in a democratic discussion based on the constructive self-criticism sufficient to establish a firm conviction that he failed to fulfill his jihad duties in the Mother of Battles, and did not play his effective leading role. The congress decided to refer him to a party commission, to be set up by the Regional Command, to continue investigations into his behavior and gather information on him from party sources and members, who are not members of this congress.

One congress member was also absent in light of the fact he was referred to a commission of inquiry to investigate organizational violations he committed—violations which caused the suspension of his membership in the congress until the investigation is completed and its results made known.

Thus, the number of congress members was 261, out of the 266 members elected to the congress by the party branches.

Glory, all glory to the Iraq of civilization, freedom, and progress; the Iraq of the entire Arab nation and honorable humankind everywhere. Forward, under the banner of the people's leader and beloved one, Comrade Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, to remove what had remained of the conspiracy and aggression and build an edifice for a society based on glory, justice, welfare, and true democratic values.

God is our guide on the right path.

Party Duties Assigned to New Regional Command

JN1509133891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT
15 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH, the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that in its first meeting, the Party Regional Command assigned party responsibilities to a number of members in the recently elected Regional Command.

The paper adds that Mizban Khadr Hadi was put in charge of the Secretariat of the Central Bureau of the Vocational and Popular Organization; Muhammad Zimam al-Sa'dun was named secretary of the Southern Organization Bureau; Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, secretary of the Central Organization Bureau; Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, secretary of the North Organization Bureau; 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, secretary of the Euphrates Organization Bureau; Nuri Faysal Shahir, secretary of the Students and Youths Bureau; 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary of the Foreign Relations Bureau; and Mizhir Matni al-'Awwad, secretary of the Baghdad Organization Bureau. [passage omitted]

Today's AL-THAWRAH says that the 10th Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—the Congress of Jihad and Construction—lasted 28 continuous hours. The congress adopted six party documents that were presented to the congress as documents and literature. At the top of these documents was President Saddam Husayn's address to the congress. The speech was considered a working guidance and ideological course for the tasks and struggle of the party in the coming stage.

5th IAEA Team Examines Nuclear Potential

NC1509210891 Paris AFP in English 2055 GMT
15 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 15 (AFP)—A team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has begun a mission to Iraq to determine the country's nuclear potential.

The head of the mission, Leslie Thorn, said agency inspectors on Sunday visited a nuclear research facility near Baghdad but he did not disclose its location.

The current 14-person team is the fifth from the IAEA to visit Iraq since the formation last April of a United Nations committee to oversee the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction following the Gulf war.

Iraqi authorities on Friday criticized a report from the head of the fourth team, David Kay, charging that he had obscured several explanations that they had supplied.

Official Views 4th UN Inspection Team Report

JN1309201391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT
13 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Iraq has emphasized that the report submitted by the fourth international nuclear inspection team has failed to present a definitive, integrated, technical evaluation of Iraq's nuclear program so as to finalize the first stage of the part related to nuclear activity enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 687, even though it was given sufficient information to make the required assessment.

The remarks were made in response to a question from the INA scientific editor to the head of the Iraqi counterpart to the international inspection teams, ahead of next week's visit to the country by the fifth international inspection. He was asked his opinion about the report released by the fourth team over the past few days, and his expectations for the fifth team.

He said: We have studied the report and prepared detailed observations which we will send to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

He noted that the report ignores important information that was presented to the team. The head of the international inspection team, who is an American, met with the highest official in charge of the Iraqi nuclear program on the last day of the visit. He met with the chief of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency. The report, however, does not speak about the meeting at all despite the fact that the chief of the team admitted then that the meeting was very important.

He added that the report includes incomplete statements by the deputy chief to serve the prior ruling made by the head of the team which he claimed—while in Iraq—that he abandoned. This also explains why the report neglects

very important information presented by other officials in high positions in the Iraqi nuclear program for peaceful purposes.

He emphasized that keeping this issue pending in this manner provides those who want to perpetuate the economic siege and starve the Iraqi people with an excuse. Thus, the report no longer remains a technical one but becomes a political instrument that is used for objectives that have nothing to do with the implementation of the UN resolutions.

He said: We have repeatedly asked the IAEA to inform us about the gaps in the information the Iraqi side submits to the inspection teams, the latest being our request to our embassy in Vienna to seek clarification from the IAEA director general. But, to this day, we have not received any accurate and specific reply. The fifth team will arrive and we have nothing to indicate that it will bring with it what is required to provide accurate and definitive answers to our questions.

The head of the Iraqi counterpart of the international nuclear inspection teams concluded his statement by saying: We expect the team to come and visit the same sites that the teams that preceded it had visited, and to ask the same questions. After this, it will receive several questions from its sources abroad on the last day of its visit and will ask for a reply to these questions a few moments before it is scheduled to leave. After this, it will write in its report that it cannot submit a definitive technical assessment as it needs more time to review the documents. He affirmed that this method of procrastination and intentional selectivity has become a well-known trait of these teams whose purpose is to seek excuses for perpetuating the siege on the Iraqi people through an international technical body.

Spokesman: Burying Troops Alive Criminal

JN1409101791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—The U.S. Defense Department yesterday admitted that thousands of Iraqi soldiers had been buried alive after they insisted on engaging the U.S. mechanized division that attacked their positions inside Iraq from Saudi territory. The U.S. Defense Department spokesman in Washington said that the Geneva Conventions do not prevent the U.S. Army from burying the enemy alive.

Commenting on this report, a spokesman for the Culture and Information Ministry told to INA today: That was not the only crime committed by the United States during its aggression against Iraq.

The spokesman added that the United States committed another appalling criminal act that will remain as a mark of disgrace in American history. This was when, for four successive days, U.S. aircraft bombed Iraqi units hurriedly withdrawing from Kuwait using vacuum bombs and air fuel bombs [preceding three words in English]. It

is known that these bombs are several times as destructive as ordinary bombs. Some experts compare their effectiveness to small nuclear bombs leading to terrible losses, even if soldiers are hiding in fortified bunkers.

The spokesman asked: Does striking at thousands of withdrawing troops with these types of weapons have any justification from a purely military standpoint, especially when the military and political objective of effecting an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait had been realized after Iraq declared its acceptance of the UN Security Council resolutions? Or was the objective to annihilate the largest number of Iraqis and by any means?

The spokesman added: We hope that world public opinion will compare the ethics of the Yankee and their criminal behavior and the behavior of the Iraqis when they liberated the al-Faw peninsula in April 1988.

The Iraqis then could have annihilated all the Iranian troops present in the al-Faw triangle. We had all the national justifications and international norms to allow us; Iran occupied Iraqi territory and refused to withdraw from it. It also refused to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a cease-fire.

However, during the liberation of al-Faw, leader President Saddam Husayn ordered the Iraqi field command in al-Faw to give the Iranians a chance to withdraw to the Iranian side of the Shatt al-Arab waterway through the bridge they set up. President Saddam also ordered that the bridge not be destroyed before the completion of the Iranian withdrawal. Thus tens of thousands of Iranian troops were spared death and captivity. How can we explain the motives behind this decision when compared to the U.S. decision to strike at withdrawing troops with highly destructive bombs, causing horrible losses? Many military and political experts interpret the motives behind the Iraqi decision as chivalrous.

U.S. 'Crime' Assailed

JN1409110291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the American military command yesterday admitted that U.S. forces buried hundreds of Iraqi soldiers alive. This incident is another flagrant crime refuting the lies they told about a clean war against Iraq.

In an article today under headlined "The Yankee's Ethics," the newspaper adds that this sinful action was carried out as a result of these soldiers' fierce resistance when fighting the American forces on the first day of the war.

It says that the battle between Iraq and the sinful forces represents two kinds of values; the first is the American's ugliness, meanness, and grudges; and the second is the Iraqi's civilized behavior, bravery, and morality. It

AL-JUMHURIYAH wonders: Was that the clean war that the Americans claimed? Was that what was sought by the new world order? How can they admit their disgrace in such a despicable manner?

One is disgusted by what he hears and reads because any crime committed in the past is nothing compared to this crime, which reflects the meanness of the dregs, who were brought from all over the world to fight Iraq and take revenge against Iraq's manliness, courage, and high values.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Let us hold that sinful crime in our memory. Let us curse the ugly American generation after generation.

Minister Comments

JN1509135591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT
15 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn 'Ali has made the following statement to INA:

We have been following news reports in the U.S. media concerning bulldozer-fitted U.S. tanks burying a large number of Iraqi soldiers alive in their defensive trenches during the first days of the criminal aggression against Iraq. These reports have been confirmed by the U.S. Department of Defense and President George Bush.

The Foreign Ministry services and diplomatic missions have begun moves at all Arab, regional, and international levels, and also with world humanitarian organizations due to the ugliness of the U.S. crime, which humanity feels extremely ashamed of. Humanity labels all those who perpetrated it, planned it, or remained silent on it, with disgrace. This brutal U.S. crime will not pass—a crime that has shown just how ugly and unethical the decisionmakers in the White House, the Pentagon, and other institutions involved in annihilating thousands of people without any deterrence from conscience are—unnoticed. The worn-out masks covering the new American international order and the deceptive imperialist claims of human rights will be exposed further and further.

The foreign minister explained that his ministry has drafted urgent memorandums to the Arab League secretary general, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, the UN secretary general, and the Security Council president and member states. These memorandums call for condemning this ugly crime and exposing its dimensions and motives and the fact that it contravenes human values and the 1949 Geneva Convention.

He added that the Foreign Ministry's memorandums will demand that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the U.S. Government provide complete and comprehensive information about the military sites that were subjected to the cowardly genocide crime perpetrated by the U.S. forces.

The memorandums will also demand that the remains of the Iraqi martyrs be handed over to the competent Iraqi authorities as soon as possible.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn added that the confessions of the U.S. officers, who perpetrated the crime of burying Iraqi soldiers alive, which were published by THE WASHINGTON POST on 12 September, and the justifications through which they tried to alleviate reactions to their heinous crime, prove to the entire world the fact that the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq was not a clean war as they have claimed, but a dirty war that exposed the coalition forces' cowardice and fear of waging a true war that may safeguard the honor and tradition of military service. In fact, this hideous action exposes the horror of the coalition forces from confronting the Iraqi forces in the trench of faith. This is why they used dirty means out of fear and fright.

The foreign minister said the disclosures about this crime, and whatever additional information about U.S. and allied outrages comes to light during the military attack against Iraq, ought to receive worldwide attention and be vigorously condemned by humanitarian organizations and global public opinion. Governments and Arab, regional, and international organizations should also raise their voices to denounce this despicable and unscrupulous crime perpetrated in cold blood.

Radio Notes Regime Attack on Kuwaiti Post

NC1609135791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A Kuwaiti official today asserted that the Kuwaiti Army yesterday checked a new attack by the tyrant regime against a police station in the al-Jahrah Governorate, west of Kuwait City.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI newspaper cited the al-Jahrah governor as saying that 70 of the defeated regime's troops dressed in civilian clothes occupied the police station in the al-Abraq area north of al-Jahrah yesterday morning. The governor added that the Kuwaiti Army succeeded in combating the attackers and forced them to withdraw, leaving behind a seriously wounded person.

Paper Says Helicopter Furor Part of 'Conspiracy'

JN1209093291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT
12 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the fabricated crises and clamor created around them constitute a new aspect of the conspiracy against Iraq. They are meant to continue the sinful aggression against the country through interference in its internal affairs and to find excuses to maintain the blockade against the Iraqi people.

In its editorial today, the paper assails the United States, which deliberately focuses on limited incidents and blows them out of proportion for pure conspiratorial

motives. It notes that the 30-state aggression is once again inflating fabricated incidents in order to distort facts and find excuses for the continuation of the conspiracy against Iraq.

It is no coincidence, the paper says, that these crises are fabricated while the American Security Council is preparing to discuss the infamous Resolution 706, which is based on the suspect French draft, and which tries through each of its articles to violate Iraq's national sovereignty, and to brutally and insolently make political gains out of the Iraqi people's suffering, which is caused by the unjust economic blockade.

Nothing provides stronger evidence of the hostile nature of these fabricated crises and on the premeditated intentions against Iraq and its people than the intentional exaggeration of some incidents, such as the security chaos in northern Iraq, which is caused by illegal U.S. interference enabling hirelings and agents to violate the laws of the state and to spread instability in the region—something that creates an abnormal situation.

The paper continues: The same applies to the impudent fabrication of an issue on the use of foreign helicopters by the UN team assigned to inspect missile sites.

The paper stresses that the incident could have been kept as a minor one had intentions toward Iraq been good. The furor over the incident is fabricated and with exposed conspiratorial dimensions, it says. The paper wonders and suspects why the team refused to use similar Iraqi helicopters, with the same specifications, if its mission did not go beyond checking the missile sites and entailed no suspect tasks for the sake of the forces of the 30-state aggression.

The paper also expresses astonishment that Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, envoy of the UN secretary general, was fully driven behind this deceptive U.S. campaign, although the man is known for his integrity and objectivity, especially as reflected in his assessment of the outcome of the sinful American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq and the future impact of the unjust economic blockade on the Iraqi people.

Concluding, the paper stresses that Iraq and its people will not yield to these links in the conspiracy, and will continue to expose them and confront their evil objectives. They will continue to remove the aftermath of the aggression and build strong, prosperous Iraq under the banner of leader President Saddam Husayn.

Paper Urges World Support To End 'Unjust Siege'

*JN1609091591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH
in Arabic 13 Sep 91 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Siege...the Crime of the Age"]

[Text] Every now and then, the power controlling the Security Council finds a pretext and uses it as a new cover to continue targeting Iraq with hostility and siege.

If international public opinion in general, and Arab public opinion in particular, have issued their final verdict on the Security Council under the canopy of Bush's new world order, this council, which no longer cares about public opinion, continues its policy which is overtly hostile to the Iraqi people. The alleged Bubiyan incident is still a scandal that makes honorable people feel sad for international legitimacy, which has turned into a whip and a trumpet in the hands of U.S. imperialism.

When the Security Council continues raising details such as the use of a helicopter or the condition of an employee, it is merely providing us with new evidence of the Security Council decisionmakers' determination to keep evading the council's urgent responsibility to lift the siege off Iraq, and immediately stop the war of starvation, which the new and old colonialist powers are launching against the Iraqi people for the second successive year amid official international and Arab silence, which can only be explained as being within the cycle of flagrant complicity and passiveness.

The economic siege, which entered its second year last month, is unprecedented in UN history. This siege is unjustifiable following all Iraq's responses and its serious and sincere cooperation with the international legitimacy despite all Iraqi remarks on its resolutions and procedures. If the Iraqi people have decided to be patient and steadfast so that sovereignty may not be the price of bread, this militant position the Iraqi people are taking under their historic leadership will not be fruitful without the support of all the honorable Arabs for Iraq in its battle for the existence of its people and children. This support should go beyond words and immediately take practical forms that will challenge the unjust siege resolutions.

We are fully aware of the real objectives of those who continue the war against Iraq employing the Security Council resolutions and details raised as a pretext for hiding their exposed identities and designs against Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and stability. This being the case, we say that the war of starvation, which aims at annihilating an entire people through famine and disease, is the crime of the age which tests the principles, capabilities and efficiency of all honorable and human forces. When the UN secretary general gives "one hostage" more time than he gives to an entire people of 18 million who suffer from hunger, this regrettable case of international legitimacy with all its meanings provides all good people all over the world with the incentive to confront this crime of the age, the crime of besieging the Iraqi people, and to consolidate the steadfastness of the Iraqis, who have chosen dignity and sovereignty in these hard times.

University Professors Form Opposition League

*NC1109145591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Sep 91*

[Text] A statement has been secretly distributed in Baghdad announcing the formation of a league of university professors which seeks to mobilize university

students against the defeated regime and to work for its overthrow and the dissolution of its repressive organs. The constituent statement of the University Professors League in Iraq said that the tyrant regime is solely to blame for what has befallen Iraq. The statement stressed that the regime spearheaded the plan that targeted Iraq, its resources, and history and turned its population into groups of homeless people scattered in cemeteries and out in the open. The league said that it has no political identity and pledged to act to overthrow the backward regime, dissolve its repressive establishments, draw up a new Constitution, reconsider its economic laws, recognize the Kurds' rights, and release prisoners. The statement condemned the tyrant regime for invading Kuwait, saying that Kuwait is a fraternal Arab country and that its invasion was a total violation of neighborliness and fraternity. The statement said that the consequences of the oppression and aggression that has befallen Kuwait must be borne by the Iraqi regime alone.

National Assembly Group Departs for Strasbourg

JN1109173191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT
11 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—A delegation of the Iraqi National Assembly left Baghdad for Strasbourg today to

participate in the third international conference on parliamentary democracy organized by the European Parliament there on Sunday. The conference will last three days.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Ahmad al-Nu'aymi, chairman of the National Assembly's Arab and International Committee, said that the delegation will present several reports to the conference on the democratic experiment in Iraq and the laws to reinforce and consolidate it despite the difficult circumstances that the country is facing as a result of the unjust economic blockade imposed on its people.

Al-Nu'aymi noted that the delegation, made up of members of the National Assembly, will explain to the conference participants the serious effects of the continuation of the unjust economic blockade. He added that the delegation will also call for an end to the blockade now that Iraq has accepted all Security Council resolutions.

He noted that during a visit to Belgium following the conference, the delegation will hold talks with parliamentarians and political parties represented in the Belgian Parliament about developing parliamentary relations between the two countries.

Delegations representing European and Arab parliaments will take part in the third international conference on democracy.

Shamir Returns, Comments on Guarantees

TA1309153391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1410 GMT 13 Sep 91

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport upon Shamir's return from France—live]

[Text] [Shamir] Ladies and gentlemen, welcome and shalom. I made a short visit to France this time to appear before the European Democratic Union, which is an organization of democratic, nonsocialist parties in Europe. This organization has grown lately upon being joined by democratic parties in most of the East European countries. Our contact with as many political circles in Europe as possible is important. Israel's economy is largely tied with that of the European continent, both West and East Europe, and the European countries now better understand the need to incorporate Israel into the European economic structure.

During my stay in Paris, I met Mitterrand, the president of the French Republic; French Prime Minister Edith Cresson; British Prime Minister Major; Jacques Chirac, who hosted this conference; and several other European representatives to the conference. During the conference, I gave a speech on Israel's policy in the Middle East. I also met with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali at his request and received a message from President Mubarak on the peace process. As customary on such occasions, I also appeared before an assembly of the Jewish community in France, and this morning before the France-Israel Friendship Association, which was attended by many people, both Jews and non-Jews. In all my appearances, I emphasized Israel's aspiration for peace and security, and explained Israel's great needs in view of the massive, blessed waves of aliyah from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

While in Paris, we heard the report about U.S. President Bush's media appearance on the issue of loan guarantees for the absorption of aliyah. Let me reemphasize what we have said and keep on saying: Israel does not accept any linkage [last word in English], as it is called, between the issue of the loan guarantees, which is a large-scale humanitarian operation, and political issues, including the peace process. We also understood that this is approximately the U.S. Administration's stand. The immigrants, as is known, are arriving in Israel in large numbers, and the needs in the absorption sphere are enormous. Therefore, we need those loans as early as possible. Reference here is to a pure humanitarian issue. The United States has always supported it. I am sure that the American people and its elected representatives and its administration will continue to support this project in accordance with the U.S. people's deeply rooted tradition. Therefore, we do not understand at all the request for a delay, and we have not heard up to this day any reasons for a postponement.

We are committed to the peace process, not because of an appeal by any element, nor in return for anything, but

because it is a substantive and basic part of our policy and our outlook since the establishment of the state. We will continue to aim at peace as strongly as we can, provided that we have partners in negotiations among our neighbors who will agree to come to free and bilateral negotiations, without preconditions, for the attainment of peace.

We are encouraged by the manifestations of unity and solidarity among U.S. Jewry and its leadership and congratulate and embrace them. We are also appreciative of and thankful for the understanding and support of Israel's friends in the United States who expressed their solidarity with our great project of aliyah absorption.

I would like to recall again that we are talking about guarantees for loans on the free market. It is an excellent arrangement, which has the advantage that it does not impose on the U.S. budget and at the same time permits us to raise large sums to finance the many and growing needs for immigrant absorption and to generate employment for the many immigrants arriving here.

We will continue in our policy because we are certain that our way is right and just. I merely said, and I believe it was right in the past and is right now too.... [changes thought] I told Secretary of State Baker that if the delay is approved it could cause a hardening in the positions of the Arab states in the negotiations. They will see it as applying pressure on Israel, so there will be unforeseen difficulties in the negotiations, which even without those problems are going to be difficult and complex.

Despite the obstacles and difficulties, I am sure that we will do everything possible, with the help of our friends, to achieve the successful integration of the immigrants and growth in Israel's economy. The immigrants will continue to come here, and we will absorb them.

We will continue as much as we can to advance the peace process. I would like to conclude by extending good wishes to all the people of Israel on Yom Kippur. A good and successful year to all the people of Israel. A good Sabbath.

[Qol Yisra'el's Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, only President Bush's signature is still missing on the guarantees. His remarks were very harsh, his fists were clenched, and he used them to pound the lectern. Will Israel continue to operate via its friends in the Senate and House and the pro-Israel lobby to get the guarantees approved now despite the President's position, and perhaps even at the price of his defeat in this struggle?

[Shamir] The struggle is not between Israel and the U.S. Administration and the U.S. President. At this moment it is an internal U.S. struggle between the Congress, Israel's supporters, and those who express understanding for Israel's needs and the administration. We see no reason to change our stand.

[IDF Radio's Natan Gutman] Mr. Shamir, you said that a delay in the guarantees will bring about difficulties in

the negotiating process. In your view, should Israel consider postponing the conference or delay its approval to participate in a conference?

[Shamir] No, I said clearly that we do not see any link between the guarantees issue and the peace process and any other political issue by either side. Therefore, we will not reach any conclusions on the peace process as a result of and in relation to the guarantees issue.

[Israel Television's Gadi Sukenik] Mr. Prime Minister, now, following the President's unprecedented attack on us over the loan guarantees request, do you believe he is still fulfilling the role of an honest broker, as he has undertaken?

[Shamir] That has nothing to do with what is currently at issue. The President did not explain precisely his reasoning for the request to delay the guarantees, so I find it difficult to react to it.

[Israel Television Arabic service's Shlomo Ginor] Mr. Prime Minister, the secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister did not reach agreement in Moscow on the date for convening the conference. What is your response to that?

[Shamir] I have not yet been updated on that. We will see the secretary of state on Monday and hear from him what is happening in U.S.-USSR relations and contacts.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, there are ministers in your government, such as Professor Yuval Ne'eman, who called on you today while you were still in Paris to tell Baker not to come to Israel at present. Is he still welcome in Israel despite what is happening between us and President Bush?

[Shamir] I am not considering such a step. As I said before, we are continuing the peace process. We do not and will not accept a linkage [last word in English] between any political issue—including the peace process—and loan guarantees.

[Gutman] Mr. Shamir, do you believe that Israel and the Jewish lobby made a mistake when they operated so intensively on Congress against the administration?

[Shamir] I believe that they expressed their position and feeling about the need to secure those guarantees to aid in immigrant absorption. There is no easier way at this minute or one that was acceptable and is acceptable to the majority in Congress.

'Conciliatory Message' Expected From U.S.

TA1409195691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1910 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] A probing debate is expected in tomorrow's cabinet meeting on the loan guarantees Israel is requesting from the United States, although the subject

is not on the agenda. The unprecedented crisis in U.S.-Israeli ties, and what most ministers view as President Bush's hostility, will undoubtedly lead to sharp outbursts, especially from the government's more right-wing section, which has already threatened to bolt over the peace process. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is not prepared to cave in on the guarantees issue at present and views it as a matter of principle, especially since, as his close associates say, he has not seen any real compromise proposal. Nevertheless, Jerusalem is trying as much as possible to avoid a worsening of the crisis.

Mr. Shamir is holding consultations tonight and all day tomorrow, including a meeting with his deputy, Foreign Minister Levi. The evaluation is that at the start of the week a conciliatory message is expected from the U.S. Administration, perhaps directly from James Baker when he arrives on Monday or even before then. Despite Baker's toughness, the Americans are concerned that the issue of the peace conference might get stuck. To government circles in Israel, this weekend has not weakened the uncomfortable feeling that something very basic has gone wrong in relations with the United States, or more correctly, in the ties between the President of the main superpower and the prime minister of Israel.

Shamir To Demand Memorandum of Understanding

TA1509071791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0600 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] In Jerusalem, consultations on the issue of the guarantees continue as Secretary Baker is expected here tomorrow. He will stay in Jerusalem for some 24 hours.

Our political correspondent has learned that in their talks with Baker, the prime minister and Ministers Levi and Arens will demand that the United States keep its promise to grant Israel a memorandum of understanding concerning the issues that were concluded vis-a-vis the peace conference. Israel maintains that the Americans have gone back on their commitment on this issue.

Cabinet Meets; Discusses Guarantees, Peace

Levi Warns Against Anti-U.S. Remarks

TA1509121891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1105 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan from the Cabinet session at the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Text] In today's cabinet session, several ministers, headed by Rehav'am Ze'evi, Refa'el Eytan, and Ari'el Sharon, attacked the remarks George Bush made the other day. This was not unexpected.

Refa'el Eytan called on the people of Israel to give up on the guarantees altogether. Minister Ari'el Sharon warned the cabinet against the United States. He said that we should not have joined the peace process. The United

States went back on everything. He argued with Prime Minister Shamir over the issue of understandings, of which, according to him, nothing was left. At the same time he asked: Why did we not attack Iraq? Why did we agree to the participation of Europe in the peace process?

Prime Minister Shamir said: We thank our friends abroad who support us, and we maintain our positions. He made the remarks in view of calls by several ministers who urged not giving in to the United States and for fighting back, an expression one of the ministers used.

David Levi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said at this point: We must not only be right; we should be smart. I regard it as my obligation to warn against an escalation in the remarks and attacks against the United States. We must prevent a deterioration. The air is electrified as it is, and the escalation in our relations with the United States is dangerous. It might have a negative impact on other matters and on our status in the international arena. The foreign minister added: I heard attacks, names being named, and statements around this table. There is one thing I did not hear: I cannot find a path in this barrage of words. I hear calls to fight back, freeze the process, and give up on the guarantees. Unfortunately, it sounds as if we are losing our senses and our way. Some around this table assist in the creation of crises, while blaming the government, saying: We told you so; we warned you. They really rejoice when an argument erupts, as if they have alternative supporters who are more favorable to Israel than the United States. That is why, the foreign minister concluded, because we are right on the issue of guarantees, I am asking you to stop this ugly wave, stop the declarations. Allow us to work, Levi called; let us handle it.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also asked the ministers present at the Cabinet session to refrain from making additional statements and unnecessary talk on this crisis.

This was the political part of the Cabinet session, and no resolutions were made. The Cabinet went on to discuss economic issues.

Shamir Urges Ministers Not To Talk

TA1509160091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Like Minister Levi, the prime minister urged the ministers to refrain from commenting on the guarantees issue: We will gain nothing by talking too much, Shamir told the cabinet. The prime minister also noted that, although he has been personally attacked by the media, he does not believe a counterattack would be a wise step.

And what course does Israel intend to take on the guarantees? The prime minister's position, as expressed at the conclusion of the cabinet meeting, was summed up by Minister Ehud Olmert:

[Begin Olmert recording] Our stand remains unchanged, our requests remain unchanged, and there is no desire for a direct confrontation with the U.S. President. Some things are within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Administration's various authorities, and that is where they should be resolved. As for Israel, neither its stand nor its request have changed. [end recording]

The prime minister expressed the hope that the affair will end in a way enabling the aliyah drive to continue. I see no reason to change our stands, but we have to adopt a cautious and considerate approach, said Shamir. The prime minister added that Israel does not wish to engage in a confrontation with the United States.

The bottom line is that although Israel is still insisting on its request for loan guarantees, this is merely an opening stand in anticipation of talks with Baker tomorrow. Stands expressed today by right-wing ministers did not leave Prime Minister Shamir much room to maneuver.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 15 September reports: "Minister Roni Milo urged his colleagues at the cabinet to refrain from overstretching the line with attacks on President Bush. In his view, the ministers should refrain from using harsh expressions that will only damage Israel's cause. He told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that despite this, he understands his cabinet colleagues' agitation, because Bush's remarks imply an erroneous approach."

The report adds: "MAPAM, the United Workers Party, says that the cabinet position favoring settlements contradicts the country's vital interests, which are the peace process and the absorption of immigrants. Knesset Member Hayim Oron told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that MAPAM expects U.S. Jewry to identify with Israel's genuine needs, rather than the Likud Government's provocative and dangerous policy."

"Labor Party Secretary Mikha Harish told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that the attribution of anti-Semitism to President Bush will serve merely to exacerbate the crisis with the United States. The Labor Party Bureau will discuss the matter in its next meeting."

Shamir Against 'Artificial Linkage,' 'Polemics'

TA1509184391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1705 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir again stated this evening that Israel requires loan guarantees to absorb new immigrants and that the request will not impose any burden on the U.S. taxpayer. Mr. Shamir was speaking at the opening of the year of law and justice. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports from the broadcasting van:

At the ceremony opening the year of law and justice, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir chose to devote his remarks to the three challenges Israel currently faces: the first, which escalated in the past week, is the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption and the reaction to

this request in the United States; the second, which the cabinet discussed today, is the state budget for the next year; and the third is the peace process. Secretary of State Baker arrives tomorrow to promote that process.

There is no link between the first and third challenges, said the prime minister. The linkage between humanitarian and political issues is artificial. Regarding the loan guarantees, the prime minister emphasized the nature and purpose of the loan guarantees Israel had requested.

[Begin Shamir recording] Still, absorption at work, in housing, as well as mental and social integration, demands the investment of enormous resources which we, thanks to Jews all over the world but mainly thanks to our own efforts, have shouldered. Unlike other countries, such as Egypt for example, we have not asked the United States to write off our debts. We pay our debts on time and to the penny, as we have throughout the years. We asked for guarantees for loans that we will obtain ourselves from banks and that will not be a burden to the U.S. taxpayer. We have deferred submission of the request from March to September at the behest of the U.S. Administration. We believe that our request is just and that its basis is completely humane.

Of course, we never forget for one minute the U.S. contribution toward opening the gates of the Soviet Union and Ethiopia, and we are not interested in polemics with the United States, a friend and ally, on this or any other issue. At times it is also necessary to overcome emotions and exercise restraint. [end recording]

The prime minister noted the need to create, within the framework of next year's budget, jobs for new immigrants. He also highlighted the need to stick to the confines of the budget even though next year is to be an election year.

Later, regarding the political process, he discussed the artificial linkage between the peace process and other issues, stressing Israel's need to secure its interests vis-a-vis Syria, the terrorist organizations, and Iraq.

Shamir Advisers—U.S. Credibility 'On the Line'

TA1509121491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 15 Sep 91 pp 1, 12

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Washington correspondent Rami Tal]

[Excerpt] "There is now a serious crisis of confidence between Prime Minister Shamir and the heads of the U.S. Administration. This crisis must be resolved before continuing discussions on convening the peace conference between Israel and the Arab countries."

This was the opinion voiced over the weekend by Shamir's advisers prior to Secretary of State Baker's arrival tomorrow in Jerusalem.

The advisers said that the United States has repeatedly gone back on understandings that had been agreed upon with Israel and that U.S. credibility as a mediator in the negotiations between Israel and the Arabs is now on the line.

Shamir's advisers recalled that the administration had asked Israel to postpone its request for loan guarantees from March to September and now, contrary to what was agreed upon, it is asking for another deferral.

Moreover, the advisers said, Baker and his aides now seek to revoke the memorandum of understanding with Israel, which was supposed to be formulated before convening the peace conference. As recalled, the Americans had promised to issue memorandums of understanding, which would detail all the understandings that were agreed upon with each party, to both the Israelis and the Palestinians prior to the peace conference. The United States, however, reached the conclusion that it could not formulate understandings with both sides without making conflicting promises. That is why Washington is now proposing to publish a general statement of intentions addressed to all parties.

Although Prime Minister Shamir clarified over the weekend that Israel has no intention of withdrawing its request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, Israel's friends in Congress are probably going to accede to President Bush's demand and agree to postpone the debate on the guarantees by four months.

To cover up their compliance, they will present it as a compromise, in which the administration will issue some sort of promise that the guarantees will be at least partially endorsed after four months, without any linkage to the settlements or peace process.

Baker may also bring a similar compromise proposal when he arrives. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 15 September, in a page-A2 report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Menahem Rahat, adds that "Jerusalem sources believe that Shamir will refuse to enter any political process under a constant economic threat." The report notes that "regarding the guarantees, Prime Minister Shamir does not intend to give in. Jerusalem, nevertheless, rejects the reports of a clash between Bush and Shamir: Yosi Ahime'ir, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said that "there is no room for a confrontation. The loan guarantees have now become an internal U.S. affair," stressing that "they have nothing to do with the political process."]

Ze'evi Accuses 'Anti-Semite' Bush of Lying

TA1509072491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi this morning harshly attacked President Bush, calling him an anti-Semite. According to Minister Ze'evi, Bush is lying and using

cheap demagoguery in claiming that Israel wants financial aid to fund immigrant absorption and is not merely asking for guarantees.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that in this morning's cabinet session, Minister Ze'evi will demand that the convening of the peace conference be suspended until the decision on the guarantees is made.

Explains Characterization

TA1509172491 Tel Aviv Educational Television
Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Interview with Minister Without Portfolio Rehav'am Ze'evi by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shilon] Why do you think the U.S. President is anti-Semitic?

[Ze'evi] When I watched him on television on Thursday night, each time he said the United States is Israel's friend and stuttered, I waited for him to continue and say: And you also crucified Christ. This is my historical memory, as a Jew, from appearances by leaders, princes, and other world figures. This is how they talk.

[Shilon] But he never said that.

[Ze'evi] He did not say that, but it was as good as being said as the conclusion of his address. He issued an urgent summons to the U.S. media urgently to hear that he was overruling [previous word in English] both the House and Senate. Over what? Here was this great democrat, this great fighter for civil rights, who waged a war against Saddam Husayn for the sake of civil rights, who later forsook the Kurds—1,000 of whom were killed every day by Saddam Husayn's storm troopers and the climate—and yet he remained unfazed. This great leader and democrat—tongue in cheek or not—is ready to abandon the Soviet immigrants, that great Jewish transfer from the USSR to Zion and Eretz Yisra'el, because it does not mesh with his line and because he has dues to pay to his democratic allies from Damascus and Amman, those wonderful democrats who fight against terrorism and the like.

[Shilon] With your permission, and for the sake of historical justice, it should also be said that George Bush sent U.S. troops to prevent Scuds from falling on Israeli civilians.

[Ze'evi] You must remember that he did this to prevent an operation by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], which could have been more effective. To stop an Israeli military intervention, he sent Patriot missiles to us, and I still have serious doubts about their real contribution to the interception of Scuds.

[Shilon] One final word, to sum up: Why shouldn't the U.S. President actually, when the issue is guarantees by the U.S. Government to Israel, say: I want to wait 120 days, or even one or two years—it is, after all, American money—to see how the political process evolves?

[Ze'evi] Look, why are we asking for these guarantees? Because we do not have the money. Why do we not have the money? Because we have to purchase arms. Why do we have to buy weapons? Because the United States sells weapons to the Arabs. It is his prerogative as the leader of the No. 1 superpower to say what he said, but by the same token it is our right to say: We respect your wishes, and if you want to wait four months to reconsider—fine, but then instead of seeing you again in the conference in October, we will meet you in October plus four months. I am not making this conditional on his reply to us at the end of those four months—whether he gives us the money or not or whether he reaches a compromise. Since he has created the linkage [previous word in English] even though he talked against it, let us honor his wishes. He is the leader of the Western world, the leader of the United States—let us respect his wishes, and I am not being cynical. Let us give him the four months to reconsider, and after that we will either meet or not at the conference.

[Shilon] Rehav'am Ze'evi, thank you very much for coming to our studio.

[Ze'evi] Thank you.

MK on 'Sheriff' Bush; Two New Settlements Soon

TA1509103891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Mordekhay Gur said this morning that in his policy, Bush is showing signs of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel tendencies. Speaking to our correspondent, MK Gur agreed that Bush feels like the sheriff of the world and said that he strikes at Israel below the belt. According to him, an understanding with the United States on the issue of guarantees could be reached but, pressed by its right-wing members, the government has mounted too high a horse.

MK Gur said that President Bush also went a little too far, and he needs help to go back. Gur charges that the government's settlement policy is a premeditated provocation of the Washington administration. He expressed the hope that the prime minister can tone down the conflict and calm everyone.

MK Ran Kohen of the Citizens Rights Movement absolutely rejected the charges directed at President Bush and said that the President is a great friend of the State of Israel. MK Kohen believes that what Bush is merely acting against is the settlements, which the prime minister and his emissaries carry out to break up the peace process.

According to MK Kohen, he has information that the government is planning to set up two new settlements this week.

Finance Minister Seeks 'Inalienable Commitments'*TA1509184591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1705 GMT 15 Sep 91*

[Text] Finance Minister Moda'i fears that deferring approval of guarantees for loans to absorb new immigrants will not make any substantial difference in the dispute with the administration over this issue. He claims that the deferral itself is not crucial, provided there is a pledge that once the request is resubmitted it will be approved without additional terms.

[Begin Moda'i recording] If I knew with certainty that this is only a postponement, and that they will be prepared to assist us by way of interim arrangements in view of this deferral, I presume we could somehow manage—although not with great ease. I repeat today, as we are being asked to put off our request by 120 days, what I said in March, when we were asked to put the request off by six months: that I am not sure we will be faced with a different situation once these 120 days are over.

The question, therefore, is not one of deferral by 120 or 60 days; it is the key question of whether we have inalienable commitments and an inalienable agreement that at the end of the waiting period—no matter how long it is—Israel will first of all receive the loan guarantees and that this will not be accompanied by any further conditions. I have not forgotten the terribly difficult time we had over the \$400-million guarantee for loans to provide housing for the new immigrants. [end recording]

Arens Sees Internal U.S. Conflict on Guarantees*TA1509161991 Tel Aviv Educational Television
Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Sep 91*

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Shilon "a few minutes ago;" Arens in the Jerusalem studio; Shilon in the Tel Aviv studio—recorded]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Shilon] How does one get down off a high horse?

[Arens] We are not on a high horse; if there is a high horse these days it is actually the conflict between the U.S. Congress and the President. We are all monitoring that conflict.

[Shilon] But we are not passive; we have reacted. The prime minister's reaction upon his return from his latest visit to France was: We will not capitulate; we insist upon receiving the loan guarantees unconditionally.

[Arens] Look, we submitted a request for guarantees for the loans that we are about to, and must, take out to absorb the immigrants from the USSR. Naturally, we hope the United States will respond favorably to our request. If the decision there is not to give us the loan

guarantees, we will simply have to pay a higher interest rate on the loans. That is why the outcome we would like to see is clear.

[Shilon] Do you feel that Israel is morally justified in activating the Jewish lobby in the United States to take action actually to twist the U.S. President's arm?

[Arens] We have not activated any lobby. If you mean AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], it is a U.S. organization. I was going to say that it is a Jewish body, but it also has some non-Jewish members. These are people who believe in relations of friendship and alliance between Israel and the United States. Therefore, AIPAC by nature works for what it perceives to be good for Israel.

[Shilon] You must have heard the opinion that if Israel wins this political war, in the end it will boomerang. Why should we, in fact, not hand to the U.S. President the ladder to climb comfortably down off his high horse and avoid a confrontation, even if we would have won?

[Arens] I do not think that there is any need for a ladder in this instance. Let me emphasize once again that to the extent that there exists an argument over this matter, it is between Congress and the U.S. President—a not uncommon phenomenon. In that country, the executive and the legislative powers are totally separated, unlike the system here. We submitted a request, and we hope that it is accepted; but if it is not, we will find a way even without the aid.

[Shilon] The current buzzword is the possible linkage [previous word in English here and below] that the United States sees between these loan guarantees and the continuation or development of the peace process. Could a reverse linkage also exist, whereby Israel says: If we do not receive the loan guarantees, we will discontinue the process?

[Arens] No, no such possibility exists. We have been telling the Americans and anyone else who wants to listen quite often that we are just as interested in peace as the next country, if not more, since we are paying the price for the lack of peace in this region.

[Shilon] Rehav'am Ze'evi, a fellow cabinet member, has accused the U.S. President of anti-Semitism. Do you share this view?

[Arens] You know that I do not share this view; moreover, I reject it out of hand. I regret very much that these words were uttered.

[Shilon] Do you believe that Israel is in fact on an unprecedented collision course with the United States, as Abba Eban described it just recently?

[Arens] No, I do not share this view, despite my deep respect for Abba Eban, who was ambassador to the United States, as I was. I think he will definitely agree with me that U.S.-Israeli relations are special and unique. Even though they are full of disagreements,

conflicts, tension, and even crisis, I believe they are so solid that I cannot foresee any shaking of these foundations.

[Shilon] James Baker arrives in Israel tomorrow. Can you give us an estimate as to what he will leave with?

[Arens] It is hard for me to say, because I am not certain what he is bringing with him. As far as I can tell, we have concluded with him almost everything necessary to initiate the meeting leading to bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. There might, however, still be some loose ends that have to be tied up and that he may want to discuss.

[Shilon] The use of firearms by the intifadah leaders and activists is nothing new, but is nevertheless serious each time it occurs. Today we again witnessed such a case. Rehav'am Ze'evi, once again, says that in this respect the government is a government of inaction. What have you, as defense minister, been doing in this regard?

[Arens] I am not impressed by these compliments to the government by a member of the cabinet. It does not exactly fit in with the collective responsibility shared by all the ministers. We have been dealing with disturbances and the use of firearms in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District—and, incidentally, also within the sovereign borders of Israel—for some time now. This has been the Israeli security forces' mission since the establishment of the state. I think we have dealt with the matter successfully. To my deep sorrow, we sometimes pay too dear a price in the face of violence.

[Shilon] Is there no room for a change in the rules of engagement exercised by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the territories in the face of this violent use of firearms?

[Arens] These regulations are clear-cut and unambiguous: Anyone who jeopardizes human life, be it with firearms or even with a rock, puts his own life at risk.

[Shilon] One final question, Mr. Minister, with respect to the hostages. Do you have any additional information or good tidings?

[Arens] Unfortunately, I have no new information. We pin our hopes on the efforts exerted by the UN secretary general. We have seen the first fruit of these efforts and are hoping that he will indeed succeed in completing his mission.

[Shilon] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, thank you very much.

[Arens] Thank you.

Olmert Views Bush Commitments on Peace

TA1509091691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0815 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Barqay] It appears that President Bush was not very impressed by the superlatives we heaped upon him in the past when we called him our great friend in the White House.

[Olmert] Look, I must tell you that I watched him on television and I have read all the commentaries written by people speaking in his name. An attempt was made to emphasize the fact that he was a friend, that he was a friend of Israel. I would like to say that friends generally do not have to avow their friendship so forcefully, because everyone already knows that they are friends. It looks suspicious when someone has to aver for himself that he is a friend. I have entertained such suspicions for a long time. This is not new. Not everything in international relations can be explained through objective, rational, cold analyses of needs, interests, situation assessments, and detached evaluations. After all, we are familiar with the players and we know that matters such as personality, drives, passions, loves, and hatreds all carry a certain degree of weight and there is no doubt that something of that sort was expressed in the tone and style of George Bush's comments on Israel.

[Barqay] And in this confrontation between us and them, what negative effect, if any, did Yitzhaq Shamir's behavior have?

[Olmert] Look, since I do not think that this situation is the result of any objective reality, I cannot rule out the possibility that something in the chemistry between the two men does not work in the same way it does with other people. I must say, however, that I refuse to be tempted to adopt the easy and perhaps simplistic solution that this is something that has more to do with Shamir's behavior. I would like to give you an example. You most probably watched Thursday's television broadcast in which we were surprised to hear that the Gulf war has absolutely nothing to do with the occupation of Kuwait or the fact that the United States wished to save two regimes, the Kuwaiti and Saudi regimes—which in my opinion are the most corrupt and rotten regimes in the history of mankind—but that the whole operation stemmed from the desire to save Israel. This claim is totally absurd, of course, but the fact that it can be made validates my previous contention that sometimes things have nothing to do with any objective reality. There are attempts to bend facts and fit them to some mood that has nothing to do with actual developments.

[Barqay] So is there something fundamentally anti-Israeli in George Bush's political behavior, and not only from today?

[Olmert] I do not know if it is anti-Israeli in any comprehensive and profound sense, and I would not want my remark to be taken in the other sense that the words anti-Israeli usually connote; however, there is no emotional commitment, there is no warmth. Listen, we had a lot of arguments during the Reagan era as well, which more than once turned into serious disagreements, but there was a feeling that President Reagan and his secretary of state, George Schultz, had some kind of deep emotional commitment to the Israeli existence, something more deep-rooted than just politics.

[Barqay] So if that is the kind of man Bush is, and that is the face of his administration, why anger him? Why does Sharon establish another settlement each time Baker lands?

[Olmert] Look, I am not in favor of angering anyone. I do not think that it is always very wise to step on someone's corns. In another context, I may very well have argued about a few things, and I have not refrained from doing so in the past. I must tell you, however, that the more I think about the matter, the more I feel that the use of the settlement issue, and so on.... [changes thought] By the way, Bush has not used the settlement issue to justify his request for a deferral; he is talking about aliyah in general. Therefore I say that although we have also committed mistakes—and we have sometimes even been very enthusiastic about making them—I find it hard to pin this matter entirely on them.

[Barqay] What should the Israeli Government do now? Should it tell the pro-Israeli lobby to forget about the loan guarantees or keep on fighting?

[Olmert] Absolutely no way! I would like to say something. People are saying that we cannot win, that even if we win the battle we will lose the war, that we may emerge victorious on this matter but get a hostile president for five years. I would like to say that we already have him for five years; that is, if he is going to be President for the next five years I do not think that this struggle will change his basic attitude.

[Barqay] He will be a wounded president and thus more dangerous.

[Olmert] But without any connection to his vulnerability on this issue I find that Bush's basic disposition does not promise anything for the future and that we cannot expect any gratitude, appreciation, or compassion from President Bush. I am saying this out of a sober assessment, and I am not saying that this is a reason to fight with him. If this is our reasoning, however, I do not think it is correct. Let the Americans act as they see fit, and if the Congress wants a compromise with the President let them compromise. We cannot initiate or accept a compromise, whether out of tactical or fundamental considerations of political expediency on this issue, because I do not believe that we gain anything by seeking a compromise or by showing goodwill on this matter.

[Barqay] Thank you, Minister Olmert.

Levi on U.S. Aid, Bush's 'Inflexible Attitude'

LD1409165891 Hamburg DPA in German 1609 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi has affirmed that his country does not make participation in the Middle East peace conference planned for October dependent on the promise of U.S. guarantees amounting to \$10 billion for the settlement of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union. "I believe that the differences of view (between the United States and Israel) can be overcome, and that a linkage between the guarantees and the peace process will not come about," Levi said in an interview with the Hamburg news magazine DER SPIEGEL (Monday edition).

Levi warned, however, against the danger that exaggerated hopes might be aroused among the Arabs because of U.S. President George Bush's inflexible attitude. Bush has threatened to intervene if within the next four months the U.S. Congress wants to decide about the loan guarantees for Israel.

The Israeli leadership will be discussing on Monday the still controversial issues—apart from the guarantees, above all Palestinian participation in the peace conference—with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit, Levi said. In addition, Israel is hoping that the changes in the Soviet Union, which together with the United States is to be the sponsor of the conference, will not delay the start of the peace talks. "We shall definitely be the first to sit down at the (conference) table," the minister affirmed.

Sharon—U.S. Backs Arabs on Immigration

TA1509195591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Minister Sharon told us this evening that if President Bush receives reports that construction in the territories has increased threefold, that figure is not so high, because the building boom in other parts of the country is far higher.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] The U.S. Administration, unwittingly or otherwise, supports the Arabs' goal, which is to place obstacles before aliyah to Israel. The Arabs have been doing this for more than a century, and that is precisely what is happening now.

[Sukenik] What irks President Bush more than anything else right now is the settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The administration claims that, while the theory may be Shamir's, the implementation is actually Sharon's.

[Sharon] All decisions on the establishment of a new settlement or the conversion of a Nahal outpost into a civilian settlement are the exclusive prerogative of the prime minister, as indeed has been the case. On the other

hand, construction work in settlements or the expansion of these settlements—as in other settlements all over Eretz Yisra'el—is the purview of the Construction and Housing Ministry, although naturally everything has government endorsement and approval and follows its policy, winning the full support and encouragement of the prime minister. [end recording]

Shamir Adviser Ben-Aharon on Guarantees

TA1509065491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general, by Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] U.S. Secretary of State Baker is coming here tomorrow. According to reports, the main reason for the deterioration in relations between Jerusalem and Washington over the issue of guarantees is setting up new settlements, mainly on the eve of Baker's arrivals here. Will you declare, are you willing to declare, that this time Israel will avoid setting up a new settlement before Baker lands here?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know the basis for your assertion that the reason is settlements. Let me remind you that in his remarks, the President did not give a clear reason for his position concerning his request for deferral. He did not say why this would hinder the peace process. I would not rush to conclude that the settlements are the reason. We know that settlement is a controversial issue between us and the United States. The prime minister explained to Baker on more than one occasion that this issue is one of the topics that should be discussed in the framework of direct negotiations over the future of the territories in question: Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Golan] Yes, but reports are being published in the United States—such as yesterday's harsh story in THE NEW YORK TIMES, whose headline reads: Bush is fed up with Shamir. They say that this is a personal issue; they say that in meetings in his office, Bush always says that right there in that chair sat Prime Minister Shamir and promised that there will be no more settlements, and one was set up that very day. So perhaps there is a connection.

[Ben-Aharon] It is possible that there is such a connection. I do not know how well THE NEW YORK TIMES reads Bush's mind. He, however, did not say this was the reason for his request for deferral. We repeat and stress, as the prime minister did in his news conference Friday when he returned from Paris, that we are dealing with a humanitarian issue, that even the United States wanted to distinguish between it and political moves. This calls for the conclusion that the United States continue its fine tradition of dealing with humanitarian issues and

approve the guarantees to allow us to obtain the funds and absorb the massive immigration coming from the USSR.

[Zissowitz] Even if this is not the main reason, are new settlements expected today or tomorrow?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not deal with settlements. Settlements in Eretz Yisra'el are subject to a government decision. As the prime minister has said more than once before: Settling Israel is part of our nature in Eretz Yisra'el.

[Golan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, let us return to the practical aspect of the guarantees. Is Jerusalem considering a compromise on this issue, as at least several U.S. Jewish leaders have recommended, so as not to exacerbate the conflict with President Bush, which we would lose even if we do win?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know of any compromise, because the President did not mention one and we did not hear the U.S. Administration mention that it seeks one. They said they want the deferral—and even then, there is no assurance that the guarantees will be approved by the administration, to allow congressional approval. We are waiting for the United States to state its position. Our position is clear and has been presented by both the Israeli Government and the Jewish leaders there.

[Golan] Let us assume that Baker will bring some offer of compromise tomorrow.

[Ben-Aharon] Let us not deal with hypotheses. If such an offer is made, we will discuss it and the government will decide.

[Zissowitz] Is the Prime Minister's Office considering stopping the struggle for guarantees to avoid furthering the conflict with President Bush?

[Ben-Aharon] I wish to remind you that the exacerbation, if there is one, was not initiated or caused by Israel. Things have been clear all along, because our request for guarantees was filed in March. Then, the administration asked us to put off the request, and we agreed because we greatly value our relations with the United States and we did not want to make it difficult for them. Now, after we postponed our request, there is an additional request for a deferral, and it is not clear what will happen even then. Israel's friends in Congress and the Senate have already addressed this issue, saying that there is no certainty that the guarantees will be approved at a later date, and then what do we do? We have to wait and see whether there really is a willingness to make a compromise.

[Zissowitz] When dealing with politics, one has to be smart, not only right. Do you not fear that employing the lobby for guarantees in the President's backyard could even further damage relations between the two countries?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, the last thing we want is to damage our relations with the United States, our ally and only supporter on the international arena. At the same time,

we did not do this. We have to act feeling that we are doing the right thing and that it is worthy of the support of anyone who wants what is good for Israel and wants to take up the challenge of this great humanitarian enterprise.

[Golan] Could the fact that the United States has not given us a memorandum of understanding concerning the political process, as it promised in the past, change our willingness to attend the peace conference? I assume this will be raised in the discussions with Baker tomorrow.

[Ben-Aharon] This is the second topic in the peace process which we have not yet finalized for which we are not to blame. We have presented our draft of understandings with the United States toward the beginning of direct negotiations in a series of meetings between the Israeli and the U.S. teams some 30 days ago. Now we are waiting for Baker to present the U.S. reaction to our offer. In general, these issues are acceptable the way things stand today, meaning: What are the arrangements for the beginning of negotiations; what commitments did the United States undertake in the past concerning the peace process, and will they be reaffirmed; and the critical issues on today's agenda, such as the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which is critical because we are discussing negotiations with the residents of the territories about their fate.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Ben-Aharon, thank you.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

Tehiya's Kohen—U.S. Activity Foiling Talks

TA1509113591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen has said that President Bush's threatening and violent attack against Israel and the alleged peace process points to the fact that it is the involvement of foreign elements, mainly of the United States, which is, in fact, foiling the dialogue between Israel and the Arab countries. She believes that the government has to make clear tomorrow to Secretary of State Baker that the necessary condition for progress in the negotiations is forsaking the opening stage of the conference and moving on to direct negotiations between the parties without the involvement of sponsors of any kind.

Knesset Member Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement said that he knows for certain, from reliable U.S. sources, that the administration is willing to approve the guarantees for absorption immediately if Israel pledges to freeze the settlements. He told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that there is no longer any doubt that the real dispute with the administration is over the issue of settlements and not guarantees. He believes that today the settlements are the only obstacle to immigrant absorption and that the government must decide who is more important: settlers or immigrants.

The Labor Party's Knesset faction will call for a vote of no confidence when the Knesset reconvenes for its winter session in about three weeks, after the recess. Faction Chairman Hayim Ramon told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that the session will open with a political statement by the prime minister and that the faction will call for the vote on this statement to be a vote of no confidence in the government.

'Arafat, Egypt Said Agreed on Representative

Propose Returned Deportee

TA1609073891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 Sep 91 pp A1, 4

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Egypt have reached a formula for the inclusion of a Palestinian in the peace conference which solves the problem of East Jerusalem representation as well as other demands raised by Palestinians in their contacts with the United States.

Information reaching Jerusalem reveals that in recent contacts, Egypt and the PLO finalized a formula which is sufficiently vague to allow Israel to maintain that the composition of the Palestinian delegation is compatible with its stands. 'Arafat believes that he will be able to garner a majority for the new proposal at the Palestine National Council, due to convene in Algiers at the end of the month.

The new proposal is based on the inclusion of deportee 'Ali Abu-Hilal, who was allowed to return to his village of Abu-Dis, in the vicinity of Jerusalem, last week. Until the Six-Day War, Abu-Dis was within the municipal boundaries of Jordanian Jerusalem, but after the city was united, the village was not included in the capital. This fact will allow the Palestinians to claim that Abu-Hilal, a resident of Abu-Dis and a deportee for five and a half years, is a representative of East Jerusalem, as well as of the Palestinian diaspora. Israel, for its part, will be able to maintain that he is a full-fledged resident of the West Bank. In addition, Abu-Hilal is a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine political bureau, and his inclusion in the delegation will enhance the Palestinian coalition in the peace process.

A theory raised in Jerusalem suggests that 'Arafat, as is his custom on the eve of political compromises, has been stepping up Fatah's military operations in a bid to placate the radical factions in his organization and to secure their support. Political elements believe this explains the deployment of a Fatah squad to carry out an attack in northern Israel.

At the same time, 'Arafat has explicitly instructed the Palestinian negotiating team—Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariyya al-Agha—that in today's meeting with Secretary of State James Baker they are to reject U.S. requests for more flexible Palestinian terms regarding their participation in the peace conference.

The Palestinians intend to present the representation of East Jerusalem Arabs as the central issue. The three delegates have been instructed by Tunis not to show any flexibility at all, particularly with regard to the demands for East Jerusalem representation and for advance U.S. assurances regarding the conclusion of the peace process. Regarding the latter, they are to stress that the Palestinians demand control of lands and water in the territories during the interim stage.

In recent weeks, factions in the territories have been arguing over the reply to Baker. Some of the leaders contend that it is vital for the Palestinians to be represented at the peace conference, even if they are invited on humiliating terms. Conversely, there are some who claim that from the Palestinians' viewpoint, the very fact of their joining the peace process under such conditions would adversely affect the negotiations.

Tonight's meeting between the secretary of state and the Palestinian delegation will be held at the American Colony Hotel and will be the first held in East Jerusalem. It is still unclear whether Abu-Hilal will participate. Although last weekend the three delegation members asked him to attend the meeting, last night it seemed he would not be included. [passage omitted]

Intifadah Leaders Back Abu-Hilal

TA1509125591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
15 Sep 91 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Dani Rubinstein]

[Excerpt] The leaders of the intifadah in the territories this weekend proposed to 'Ali 'Abdallah Muhammad Abu-Hilal, the Arab deportee who was allowed to come back to Israel in return for the body of Samir As'ad, that he participate tomorrow in the meeting between Palestinian notables and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Yesterday evening Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sari Nusaybah, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi and other notables visited Abu-Hilal at his home in Abu-Dis. Al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi asked Abu-Hilal to consider participating in the meeting with Secretary of State Baker, who is scheduled to arrive in Israel tomorrow and also meet with the Palestinian representation.

Abu-Hilal said that he would consider the matter favorably under certain conditions. Abu-Hilal said he would respond to the proposal today and in any case only after receiving the approval of his organization—the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Since Abu-Hilal's return to his home in East Jerusalem in the same plane that brought Samir As'ad's body, he has been visited by over 2,000 people, including central activists in the territories and union leaders, who congratulated him on his return. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Anticipate Baker Talks

TA1609090291 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
16 Sep 91 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] This afternoon U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will meet with Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi. Zakariyya al-Agha, who is currently abroad, may join them as well. The meeting will probably take place at the U.S. Consulate in West Jerusalem. At first, the inclination was to hold the meeting in East Jerusalem, but the Americans decided not to change the locale of the meeting to avoid deepening the rift in relations with Israel. This was reported by Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem.

According to them, in preliminary contacts it was made clear that Baker will not be bringing a letter of guarantees; however, he will express a willingness to clarify Washington's position on some of the issues that concern the Palestinians. The sources believe that during his current visit, Baker will make clear that the dialogue with the PLO will be renewed if the organization meets the U.S. conditions. This clarification is seen as significant in view of the fact that the PLO is considering expelling Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] from its Executive Committee.

The same sources also expect Baker to express readiness to recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination—under certain conditions. Baker will probably make this recognition conditional on the establishment of a confederation with Jordan or on another solution based on what the parties will decide at the peace conference, but will not agree to link the autonomy with the permanent arrangement. Furthermore, he will not accept the Palestinian stand concerning the nature of the autonomy, but will agree to provide his interpretation of UN Resolution 242—territories for peace—according to which East Jerusalem is incorporated in this resolution. At the same time, he will stress that there is no need for a true resident of East Jerusalem to represent this part of the city, and will recommend that al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi accept the notion of a joint delegation with Jordan. In addition, Baker will reject the Palestinian position according to which the PLO is the only body authorized to name the Palestinian delegates. [passage omitted]

Appeal Nets Housing Ministry 15 Million Shekels

TA1509170991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The cabinet today rejected almost all the appeals that ministers submitted on their ministries' budgets, reaffirming the state budget for the next year. Only the appeal of the construction and housing minister with regard to the public construction clause was endorsed at the cost of 15 million shekels.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the government will pledge to purchase all 15,000 apartments that the Construction and Housing Ministry will build next year, in accordance with an agreement between the Construction Ministry and the Treasury.

The state budget will now be submitted to the Knesset for the first and second hearing. [passage omitted]

Baker Visit Stymies Approval

TA1609123191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Just as the Knesset Finance Committee stood to approve the allocation of 15 million shekels for investment in existing projects in the territories, James Baker's visit to Israel has prevented the approval. Our correspondent Eytan Almog reports that Committee Chairman Moshe Ze'ev Feldman decided to postpone the debate until Friday [20 September], saying that Israel's enemies must not be given additional ammunition.

Police To Clamp Down on Kakh During Baker Trip

TA1509055091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] The commissioner of police has ordered a clampdown on the Kakh organization following the entry of two Kakh members into police interrogation rooms during the questioning of Palestinian representative Faysal al-Husayni. Commissioner Ya'akov Turner directed that the strictest possible legal measures be used against Kakh, especially during the upcoming visit to Israel by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Turner ordered stepped-up surveillance and that officers not hesitate to detain Kakh members at the slightest indication they may cause trouble.

Our reporter says police are concerned that Kakh will create a provocation which could draw a violent backlash from Arab extremists.

Soviet Envoy Predicts Full Ties Before Talks

TA1609113791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 16 Sep 91 p 3

[Report by New York-based correspondent Tzadok Yehezqeli]

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet ambassador to the United Nations and the most senior Soviet diplomat in the United States after the ambassador to Washington, yesterday told YEDI'OT AHARONOT in New York that the USSR is determined to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel a few days prior to the convening of the peace conference next month.

Vorontsov made these remarks last night during a visit to a New York synagogue, where he took part in a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the Babi Yar

massacre. "We will resume relations with Israel just as the peace conference opens," he said, "a day or two prior to that."

Vorontsov denied rumors that relations will be reestablished in New York, where Foreign Minister David Levi is to attend the UN General Assembly and meet with the new Soviet foreign minister.

The Babi Yar commemoration ceremony at the Park East Synagogue in New York was the stage of the first address ever to a Jewish audience by Anatoliy Zlenko, foreign minister of the independent Ukraine.

In an unprecedented statement which alarmed Jewish leaders, Zlenko said that the Ukraine is not pleased with the mass emigration of Ukrainian Jews to Israel. "On the one hand, we will not interfere with the free emigration of Jews, if they are determined to leave," he said. "On the other hand, we are not concealing the fact that we are worried by the growing number of Jews wishing to leave, because most of them are young experts whom our economy needs."

"Babi Yar has ceased being a black mark on Ukrainian history," said Zlenko. Why? Because the Ukraine no longer conceals all that happened there...

Russia's Lukin Sees More Emigration, Asks Aid

TA1309161991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Russian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and currently on a visit to Israel, promised Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz that Russia will continue to assist in the emigration of Jews to Israel. He said that while Russia is not happy about such a situation, it is committed to free emigration and honoring human rights. He said that the large aliyah during an economic crisis in the USSR might inflame anti-Semitism. He believes that economic aid by the Jewish people to the USSR would contribute to fighting such a tendency.

Lukin said his country is concerned about new immigrants settling in the territories and a clear Israeli declaration that it does not intend to settle immigrants there would help to improve relations. On the situation in his country, Lukin said there is no certainty there will be another coup attempt, so the West and Israel must strengthen democratic forces in the USSR. [sentence as heard]

'Significant Development' in Hostage Issue

TA1609063891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 Sep 91 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Ori Nir, Hayim Handwerker, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Uri Lubrani, who heads the team dealing with the issue of Israel's POW's and MIA's, will return to

Israel today after an emergency meeting in Paris with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Political sources in Israel have said that a significant development has taken place in connection with information on the POW's and MIA's, mainly on the subject of navigator Ron Arad. They believe that the UN secretary general briefed Lubrani on the talks he held in Tehran on Friday.

A defense figure said last night that the key to the information about navigator Ron Arad undoubtedly lies in the hands of the UN secretary general and that Lubrani met with him to obtain that information. According to the defense source, one of the reasons for Israel's recent gestures—the release of Shiite prisoners, the return of bodies, and the return of deportee 'Ali 'Abdallah Abu- Hilal to Israel—was its desire to obtain reliable information on Arad's whereabouts.

Today Lubrani will report to Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on his talks with the UN secretary general. Last night he refused to

discuss his talks with Perez de Cuellar. Asked whether progress had been made on the issue of POW's, he replied: "I hope so, but a low profile must be maintained in this matter." [passage omitted]

Soldier Killed; 'Code' on Arms Said Broken

*TA1509054291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 15 Sep 91*

[Text] Twenty-year-old IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Sergeant Yoram Kohen from Moshav Adirim was killed last night in a clash with terrorists in the village of al-Masahiliya near Janin. At around 2000 last night, shots were fired at an Army patrol in the village. Soldiers returned fire. Our reporter says that two terrorists were probably involved in the incident.

Military officials are reportedly concerned at the increased use of arms against soldiers in the territories. The officials say intifadah leaders have broken a code which dictated that firearms not be used.

Prince Hasan Praises Bush's Veto Threat*JN1509153991 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Sep 91*

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said that the success of the Middle East peace process is dependent on continued U.S. determination and eagerness to move toward a solution. Interviewed by the BBC, his highness praised U.S. President George Bush's decision to use his veto power against any attempt by the Congress to provide loan guarantees to Israel to settle Soviet Jews.

His highness referred to the proposed peace conference next month and said the decisive question is not the date of the conference as much as it is the maintaining of U.S. participation in the conference. He pointed out Jordan's pressing needs and said they constitute an important factor in the march toward peace.

The BBC said that Jordan is suffering from a difficult economic situation because more than 250,000 Jordanian and Palestinian workers in Kuwait were forced to leave, and because the United States had suspended its aid to Jordan.

King Husayn Interviewed by Jewish UK Paper*TA1309115591 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 13 Sep 91 pp 1, 8*

[Text] "Whenever Yitzhaq Shamir Says Something, He Does It," says Jordan's King Husayn. "I have to assume that, like me, the Israeli prime minister wishes to lay a firm foundation for a peaceful future."

King Husayn made these remarks in an exclusive interview with THE JEWISH CHRONICLE, an important Jewish UK publication. He was interviewed by CHRONICLE editor Ned Temko at the king's London residence, where he was vacationing.

In reference to Jordan's economy, the king said it was in "dire straits" owing to the great number of refugees who have arrived in Jordan since the war and to the boycott waged by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf emirates.

The king firmly averred that the talk about his support for Saddam Husayn after the invasion of Kuwait was "absolute nonsense." According to him, he left for Baghdad the day after the invasion with the explicit support of Egypt and other Arab countries, in order to pressure the Iraqis to withdraw from Kuwait. The Jordanian position, says Husayn, has always been that "no Arab country should use force against another Arab country."

The greater part of the king's remarks addressed the future. He said that the key to the future of the Middle East lies in extensive political reforms in the internal Arab arena and in Arab-Israeli peace. Asked to express his opinion on the proposal put forward by Ari'el Sharon, Israeli construction and housing minister, to

make Jordan a Palestinian state, the king said: "This kind of talk does not worry me."

Reality suggests that Jordan, Israel, and the areas between them need peace, he added. "If no doors are opened to the region and the world, if harmony is not restored," said Husayn, "this region will be unable to provide sustenance even to its inhabitants."

Referring to the recent arrival of thousands of immigrants in Israel and over 300,000 refugees in Jordan, the king said: "The question of resources, particularly water, must be discussed in an atmosphere of peace."

Asked for his opinion on the Israeli settlements in the territories and on the future of the territories, the king replied: "I beseech all those who deal with these matters not to indulge in discussing details, and I myself will also exercise restraint. Too much was said in the past, which created obstacles on the path to a solution of the conflict. We need quiet diplomacy, in the hope that it will break down various barriers and taboos. What we need now is a direct dialogue in its purest form."

The Jordanian king further said that the Jordanians "are ready for the possible convening of a peace conference." He expressed the hope that Europe will be a full partner at the conference.

Other Jordanian sources have alluded to the possible use of the term "dual nationality" in connection with ways of addressing questions such as Israeli settlement in the territories.

Iranian Official Satisfied After Meeting King*JN1509181491 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Sep 91*

[Report by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After his meeting today with His Majesty King Husayn, Mr. Asadi-Khonsari, Iranian Foreign Ministry adviser and director of the Middle East and North Africa Department, spoke with Jordan Television:

[Begin Asadi-Khonsari recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, I met with senior Jordanian officials, headed by his majesty the king, today. I conveyed a verbal message from His Excellency Hojjat ol-Islam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his majesty. The message deals with the Palestinian question and refers to the need for cooperation and coordination among all Islamic peoples and nations to uphold this sacred question, which is the chief cause of the entire Islamic nation.

I also listened to His Majesty King Husayn's views in this respect. He explained in detail what the Muslim Jordanian people have done over the long past years to support their Palestinian brothers. We also touched on bilateral relations, which were resumed a few months ago. His majesty and I expressed satisfaction with the

establishment of economic cooperation and trade in the interests of the two peoples. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan Meets German Minister 10 Sep

JN1009202291 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today received German Economic Cooperation Minister Carol-Dieter Spranger. The planning minister, the finance minister, and the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan attended the meeting. Details are in the following report from our correspondent for political affairs Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin Dhiyad recording] His Highness Prince Hasan explained to the guest minister Jordan's position on the peace process, as well as current efforts in this area. His highness concentrated on Europe's important role in reaching a political settlement in the Middle East based on solutions from the region itself. Talks also centered on the priority of dealing with Middle East issues. His highness also expressed his appreciation for the German Government's support of Jordanian programs to aid returnees from the Gulf area.

His highness added that man is the principal axis in the region's issues and that proposed solutions to the issues of the returnees and the assistance that should be extended to them fall short of what Israel is promised or what it demands to absorb the Soviet and Eastern European Jewish immigrants. His highness also explained to the German minister the seriousness of the water problem in the Middle East, as well as the environmental dimension which will affect the future of people in the region.

The German economic cooperation minister arrived in Amman at the head of an official delegation on a three-day visit to Jordan. He was received by Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz, the German ambassador in Amman, the Jordanian ambassador to Germany, and a number of senior officials. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan on Gulf Returnees, Water Shortage

JN1009200391 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Maha al-Sha'ir; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sha'ir] Jordan in the past year received 300,000 returnees, Palestinians and Jordanians, who were forced to leave Kuwait, and Jordan is expecting 100,000 more returnees. How is Jordan going to absorb all these massive numbers?

[Hasan] The compensation to Jordan, according to the United Nations during 1991, was \$5 billion. The United Nations' report at that time was based on Jordan's

having processed over a million and a half third country nationals during the summer of last year. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sha'ir] The water issue. Jordan has a shortage in water, and yet, the influx of the returnees did not make things easy with the water. What is Jordan going to do about that?

[Hasan] At the end of this summer today, water is being rationed in Amman and al-Zarqa'. People are being asked to be extremely careful in the use of water for drinking purposes. Of course, there are some basic solutions like major new pipelines from different parts of the country to Amman and al-Zarqa'. But how can we predict today in the summer of 1991 that 300,000 people, times five or times seven, given the average size of family and dependents, is going to become 6 or 7 million people by the year 2000. These are decisions that we cannot make. We cannot place all our eggs in one basket, in the services and housing basket, unless some light is given at the end of the tunnel. So clearly we have a Band-Aid solution plan of direct assistance to these people, but beyond that, and this will obviously become clearer by the end of this calendar year, we have to answer some pretty biting questions. Clearly, Jordan, the occupied territories, Israel cannot be the repository for all the tormented demography of this region. There has to be a regional solution, a regional look. This is why we have been proposing dual nationality, for example, for Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Airline Barred From Flying Citizens From Kuwait

JN1109094191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
11 Sep 91 pp 1, 16

[By Nayif al-Ma'ani]

[Text] Sources in the know have told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Kuwaiti Government decided not to allow Royal Jordanian to transport Jordanian and Palestinian citizens from Kuwait. It was learned that the Kuwaiti Government entrusted Egypt Air, Syrian Airlines, and Gulf Air to carry these citizens from Kuwait to Cairo, Damascus, or Bahrain and then to Amman.

This arbitrary measure is motivated by Jordan's responsible pan-Arab stance toward the Gulf crisis, which was misconstrued by some Arab brothers. This measure has caused great suffering for Jordanian and Palestinian citizens who are being deported by Kuwaiti authorities because they have to fly to Cairo, Damascus, or Bahrain en route to Amman. The measure has also caused a great financial loss to Royal Jordanian, estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

World Stance Toward Kuwait Deportees Criticized

JN1109090991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
11 Sep 91 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Those Expelled From Kuwait and the World's Position"]

[Text] With the full knowledge of all those who speak about human rights, democracy, and international legitimacy, some 300,000 Jordanians have been deported from Kuwait. We have not heard any protest against this from Washington and London, and we have not read one convincing statement by a Western official about the racist methods with which the deportation of these Jordanian citizens has taken place—these citizens who, with their fathers and grandfathers devoted their lives, nerves, sweat, and sincere service to a sisterly Arab country, or to what is supposed to be an Arab and sisterly country.

The statements made by His Highness Crown Prince Prince Hasan, the regent, to Jordanian television yesterday have revealed the double standard employed by the West concerning Jordan and the Jordanians, Kuwait and the Kuwaitis, and Israel and the Jewish immigrants. The talk about the human rights of the Kuwaitis and the Soviet immigrants is loud, sharp, and decisive, but when it comes to the Jordanian citizens deported from Kuwait there has only been soft whispers. While hundreds of millions have been given to settle the Soviet immigrants in a homeland which is not theirs, and billions have been allocated to continue the settlement process, we have not thus far heard of one dollar being given to Jordan to help it absorb the 300,000 citizens who need seats in schools and universities, hospital beds, and also housing, sources of income, and water. All these requirements are needed in a country that faces an acute crisis even in getting its water requirements, whose only seaport is under unjustifiable siege, and which has not been compensated for the losses caused by the Gulf war, even though the United Nations approved this right. All this is taking place while Jordan is the only Arab country whose citizens are exercising their political life, enjoying their full rights, and living a real democracy that is more entrenched and more genuine than the democracies the West is asking other world countries to introduce and for whose implementation the West gives huge rewards even if these democracies are fake and only serve the West.

We have always hoped that the Americans in particular would be fair as far as the tragedy of the Jordanians expelled from Kuwait is concerned. The least of this fairness is that the Emirate of Kuwait applies to the Americans the U.S. naturalization law, which gives non-Americans the right to ask for nationality after five years. If Washington and the emirate consider this a short period, let nationality be the right of all those who lived in Kuwait for 20 years. There are tens of thousands who have this right, and who, as we said, have devoted their lives, efforts, and sincere work to the emirate. Their reward was deportation, with the full knowledge of all Westerners, especially the United States, which has allocated \$10 billion to settle the Soviet Jews in occupied Palestine and which, before this, paid out hundreds of millions of dollars. At the same time, it has not protested against the Kuwaiti regime's crime, nor extended assistance to our country and people to absorb our sons who

returned to us, and for whom we are facing a real dilemma due to our economic conditions and the continued unjust siege on our country.

Water Shortage Said Reaching 'Danger Stage'

JN1509125691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
15 Sep 91 p 4

[By Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Excerpts] The water situation in the kingdom has reached the danger stage. It has reached a stage where effective decisions are needed to resolve the crisis. Engineer Mu'tazz al-Bilbaysi, Water Authority secretary general, stated this in an interview with AL-DUSTUR. Also participating in the interview were Eng. Sanan Khulayfat, director of the Amman Governorate Water Authority; Eng. Sa'd al-Bakri, director of operation, maintenance, and workshops at the Water Authority; and Raja Jad'un, director of laboratories and water observation at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. [passage omitted]

Al-Bilbaysi stressed that the current water sources have been exhausted and the safe line crossed. Therefore, at present no large sources of water can be secured from current water sources, only very limited quantities that cannot meet the current requirements.

He said that what remains now in Jordan in terms of available, large, exploitable water sources is water from al-Disah, and that the authority is currently assessing this source. It is studying the possibility of implementing a project whereby 70 million cubic meters of al-Disah water would be annually transferred in two stages to the various population centers throughout the kingdom. This would involve a 280 kilometer large-diameter pipeline, and pumping stations to transfer the water to all population centers. The capital and operational costs of this project would be high and lead to increased water prices. [passage omitted]

Regarding the authority's decision to stop pumping water from Dayr 'Alla to Amman, Eng. al-Bilbaysi explained that this project takes water from the King 'Abdallah canal, which provides citizens with water for agricultural purposes, without affecting agriculture in the Jordan Valley. However, in past years, this project was only partly operational due to the shortage of water in the summer in the canal.

He said: We hope this year God would send us rain to enable us to operate this project, even partially, throughout the year, so long as this is not at the expense of water for irrigation and agriculture in the Jordan Valley. [passage omitted] Eng. Mu'tazz al-Bilbaysi ruled out establishing a desalination plant, stressing that the authority postponed this idea due to the high capital and operational costs, and until such costs become logical and appropriate. [passage omitted]

Al-Musawi, Fadlallah Comment on Hostage Issue
NC1309180291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, member of Hizballah's consultative council, has said that Israel's failure to release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is an obstacle and will delay the release of some hostages. He told REUTER that Washington had promised that Shaykh 'Ubayd would be among the 51 prisoners who were freed last Wednesday, noting that the release of the prisoners was a positive measure but incomplete. He said it is possible that a Briton, an American, or another hostage will be freed in a week or more.

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has criticized the focus on the Western hostages at the expense of those detained by Israel, saying that many people in Arab countries are more concerned for the Western hostages than for the Arab detainees.

He said: We should all be committed to the human rights of the Westerner and Easterner equally. If this is not the case, why should we care about the human rights of Westerner?

Fadlallah Discusses Hostage Issue, Conference
NC1409071591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the Islamic resistance represents the nation's honor and dignity and is the only party still confronting Israel following the defeat of the other resistance groups and the collapse of the Arabs.

In his Friday sermon yesterday, his eminence criticized the current efforts to release the Western hostages, because they ignore other people's rights—as if the Westerner should be free but the Muslim or Arab should not be free in his own country.

'Allamah Fadlallah demanded the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and urged that the call for his freedom be as loud as those for freeing the Western hostages.

His eminence cautioned the people not to be led to believe that Israel is making a humanitarian gesture when it releases some detainees from its prisons. He called on the international community to condemn Israel because it detains innocent people and violates human rights.

'Allamah Fadlallah questioned the significance of holding an international peace conference at a time when the Arabs are weak, Israel is strong, and any semblance of international balance has disappeared. He said that the current controversy between Israel and the United States over Israel's request for loan guarantees to finance Soviet Jewish immigration is merely a maneuver to make the Arabs fall into the trap of the settlement

conference. He noted that these developments have come in the wake of the Arabs' fall during the Gulf war.

His eminence pointed out that the international conference will be merely a get-acquainted session and said the United States is seeking to fulfill Israel's interests at the expense of those of the Arabs.

Al-Musawi: Hostage May Be Freed Within Week
NC1409084191 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, Sept 14 (AFP)—A British or American hostage held in Lebanon may be freed within a week, the leader of Islamic Amal, a Shiite fundamentalist movement, said here Saturday. Husayn al-Musawi, who heads the most radical fundamentalist group in Lebanon, said the release of a larger number of Westerners "depends on the freeing by Israel of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd with a new group of detainees. If not, a single (Western) hostage will be released." [passage omitted]

Imam: Release in '24 Hours'

NC1409154891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1540 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] REUTER has cited Shaykh Ahmad Talib, who replaced Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd as the imam of Jibshit, as saying that a British hostage will be released in 24 hours. Meanwhile, the U.S. television network CNN has cited what it termed a reliable source as saying that two British hostages will be released in 24 hours.

Release Prospects Viewed

NC1409172791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] REUTER has cited Shaykh Ahmad Talib, who replaced Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd as the Hizballah spiritual leader in Jibshit, as saying that a British hostage in Lebanon will be released in 24 hours. Shaykh Talib said a Western hostage will be released very soon despite Shaykh 'Ubayd's continued detention, which means there can be no excuse for any Israeli effort to delay a settlement of the hostage crisis. He said that Israel must release Shaykh 'Ubayd or bear responsibility for obstructing a solution to the crisis.

A fundamentalist Islamic source close to the problem has said that an American hostage may be released soon if the pro-Iranian captors receive guarantees from Israel that Shaykh 'Ubayd will be included in the next batch of Arab prisoners to be released.

A Lebanese Shiite leader close to Syria has said that the hostage crisis in the Middle East will be settled by Christmas through a series of exchanges of Western hostages for Arabs detained in Israel.

For his part, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has stated that it is very likely that a Western hostage in

Lebanon will be released soon and that the hostage issue will be settled within two or three months. In a statement to VISNEWS television, Birri said there will be a gradual release of all Western hostages in return for Israel's release of Arab detainees. He reiterated that the Amal Movement holds the remains of two Israelis and is prepared to allow the Red Cross to examine these remains in return for Israel's release of 28 women detained in al-Khiyam prison.

Release Maybe 'Early Next Week'

NC1409175091 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Beirut, Sept 14 (AFP)—British hostage Jack Mann will be released from captivity soon, probably early next week, a well-informed source told AFP on Saturday. Mann's wife, Sunny Mann, arrived here from London on Friday because she had received information that her husband would be released by his kidnappers, the source said.

"The release of Mr. Mann is in its final stages and he should be set free at the start of the week," the source, who declined to be identified, said. Mann, a World War II flying ace and long-time resident of Lebanon, was snatched near his west Beirut home on May 12, 1989. His abduction was only claimed on Wednesday when the underground group, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO), issued a communique saying that the 77-year-old Mann was in good health.

The statement, authenticated by a photograph of Mann, also hoped for a speedy end to the efforts by the United Nations to resolve the Middle East hostage issue. The call came hours after Israel's proxy militia in Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), released 51 Lebanese Shiite prisoners while Israel returned the bodies of nine Hizballah militants, giving new momentum to efforts to resolve the hostage affair.

Sunny Mann had talks in London with British Foreign Office officials before returning to Lebanon on Friday and saying she was "optimistic" that her husband would be released from captivity. She said that British officials had advised her to go back to Beirut and wait for Mann's release and on Saturday she told AFP: "I seriously think that Jack will be freed soon."

The RJO also claims to be detaining American Joseph Cicippio. Four other Americans, one Briton, two Germans and one Italian, are also missing in Lebanon.

A spokesman for the Royal Air Force base at Lyneham, where former British hostage John McCarthy was taken after his release in August, said Saturday that base officials were ready for a possible release. "We have contingency plans ready to be put into operation," the base spokesman said.

In London, however, a British Foreign Office spokesman said Saturday that there was no confirmation that a release was imminent. "We would be delighted if it were

true," the spokesman added. David Waite, the brother of hostage Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy kidnapped in Beirut in January 1987, said meanwhile that "if there is to be a release, I would hope that Jackie Mann comes out first, because of his age."

Shams-al-Din: 'Matter of Weeks'

NC1509162391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, expects that the release of a new Western hostage is a matter of weeks, not days. In an interview with the BBC today, Shams-al-Din said such a release is linked with keeping the U.S. and Western pressure on Israel to release Arab detainees held in Israeli jails. Shams-al-Din accused the Israelis of blocking a comprehensive settlement of the hostage issue because it only released a limited number of prisoners.

Shams-al-Din: Missing Israelis, Iranians Dead

NC1609074491 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT
16 Sep 91

[Text] Beirut, Sept 16 (AFP)—Six missing Israeli servicemen and four Iranians, whose fate is linked to an overall settlement of the Middle East hostage crisis, are reportedly dead, a leader of the Lebanese Shiite community said on Monday. "I cannot confirm anything but the information I obtained states that all the Israeli servicemen are dead," the vice-president of the Shiite Superior Council, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, told the Al-Sharq newspaper. "As for the four Iranians, we investigated their fate four years ago and all the information we received then also indicated they were dead," he told the pro-Syrian daily.

Israel has been demanding information on its servicemen, missing or captured in Lebanon since 1982, before agreeing to demands by kidnappers of Western hostages to release some 350 Arab prisoners, mostly Shias. On Friday the body of a seventh soldier was handed to Israel, three days after the Jewish state ordered the release of 51 Lebanese prisoners held by its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army, in south Lebanon.

Israel also handed back on Wednesday the bodies of nine pro-Iranian Hizballah militants and said the moves were gestures of "goodwill" towards efforts to resolve the Middle East hostage crisis.

The four Iranians; two diplomats, an embassy driver and a journalist, were abducted in 1982 by the Christian Lebanese Forces militia which later said they had been killed. But Iran, which has influence over the kidnappers of 10 Western hostages in Lebanon, believes they are still alive and held in Israel. It is demanding information about them as part of an overall settlement of the hostage affair.

Shams-al-Din, a moderate pro-Syrian cleric, told the BBC on Sunday that a Western hostage in Lebanon could be released within "weeks rather than days" amid several other reports that a hostage, probably a Briton, could be imminently set free.

Al-Musawi: Shaykh 'Ubayd Must Be Freed

NC1609093191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that the key to resolving the hostage issue is American pressure on Israel or an Israeli concession and added that the solution would involve the release of the Arab detainees.

Al-Musawi said that Israeli's recent act was incomplete and that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd must be freed. He added that the Hizballah delegation's visit to Iran dealt with the issue of the Arab detainees.

Prime Minister Karami Views Talks With Kelly

NC1409091291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Excerpt] John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East and North African affairs, met with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami today but declined to make any statement after the meeting.

Prime Minister Karami said that he had asked Kelly about what guarantees Lebanon would get on its attendance at the Middle East peace conference. He added that Kelly assured him that Lebanon would not stand alone at the conference and that the United States would support its full independence, its sovereignty over its territory, and its demand that Israel withdraw from the south.

Karami said that he told Kelly of his displeasure over the Jazzin issue and noted that the Lebanese state had fulfilled its obligations on the matter. He cited Kelly as saying that armed resistance continues in the area and that this issue will be discussed at the peace conference. [passage omitted]

Discusses Conference Goals

NC1409132191 (Clandestine) Voice of the
Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Excerpts] John Kelly, assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs in the U.S. State Department, who is leading a U.S. delegation that includes U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami today. Foreign Minister Fariz Buwayz was present during Kelly's meeting with

President al-Hirawi. The talks focused on domestic and regional issues, the peace conference, and UN Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Karami said that the talks centered on the domestic situation, both in terms of security and assistance. He added: The Americans admire the achievements we have made in the security field. We discussed the need for help in establishing an international fund for Lebanon and its importance for consolidating what has been achieved regarding security in Lebanon. They promised to do their best, particularly on the sidelines of the meetings that will take place in New York as part of the upcoming UN session.

The most important and basic topic was the issue of the international conference, which we discussed at length. We expressed our interest in obtaining the implementation of UN Resolution 425 and pointed out that, according to this resolution, Israeli withdrawal from the south is absolutely not subject to negotiation or discussion during that conference. I informed Mr. Kelly and his companions of the Lebanese public's opinion on this matter, the fear it has about the conference, and the Lebanese people's interest in seeing some kind of U.S. guarantee for Lebanon's rights during that conference, particularly as it is being said that discussions during the conference will take place on the basis of bilateral negotiations. Karami added: Mr. Kelly assured me that Lebanon will not be alone at the conference, that the United States will support with all its power its effort to maintain its full independence and sovereignty over its territories, to secure Israel's withdrawal from the south, and to preserve all Lebanese rights. We consider this backing to be a kind of guarantee that will help us implement Resolution 425, which is what we all want. [passage omitted]

Regarding yesterday's operation at al-Naqurah and the government's position, Karami said: We reiterate that we are not against the principle of resistance as long as the land is under occupation, but we do not support acts of resistance against the UN troops, because this could raise several questions—especially these days, when hostages are in the process of being released and prisoners are being exchanged.

Captured Palestinian Gunmen Sent to Beirut

NC1309202991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has stated that UNIFIL transported to Beirut by helicopter this evening the three members of the armed group held at UNIFIL headquarters in al-Naqurah.

UNIFIL's Timor Goksel said that the three Palestinians, who were detained by UNIFIL this morning, were transported to Beirut at 1830. UNIFIL had earlier contacted the Lebanese Army to arrange a hand over.

TISHRIN Views U.S.-Israeli Tension*JN1409084491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 14 Sep 91*

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN discusses the intense confrontation between the Shamir government, its supporters in the U.S. Congress, and the Zionist lobby on the one hand, and the U.S. Administration, President Bush, and the American taxpayers on the other. TISHRIN says: This conflict between Bush and Shamir is a contest of strength between U.S. objectivity and the Zionist lobby, especially since Bush did not hesitate to say that he will withdraw.

TISHRIN reviews two important messages U.S. President George Bush wanted to convey through this heated confrontation. The first message, TISHRIN says, is that it is impermissible for both Israel and its supporters in Congress to draw up and execute foreign policy, because this policy, first and foremost, is the responsibility of the U.S. President through his constitutional powers. The second message is aimed at exposing Israel's pretexts and attempts at extortion.

TISHRIN adds that yielding to Israeli extortion, as revealed by the Bush-Shamir confrontation, does not only torpedo peace efforts, but also threaten the interests of the Americans themselves. This is what Bush preferred to expose and resist because U.S. political credibility is being tested these days. It is very important to stand against those who impede the peace process. It seems that it is high time the i's were dotted and Israel exposed as the only cause of tension, the source of aggression, and the root of terrorism in the region. It should be also declared that there can be no lasting peace without an end to Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

Commenting on the same subject, the newspaper ALTHAWRAH says: What we would like to emphasize and warn of is the Zionists' disregard of ethics, charters, and pledges. The furor fabricated by Shamir against the U.S. President reveals the reality of the Zionists' grudge against the American people despite the unlimited support for Israel by successive U.S. Administrations.

Clamor, 'Gimmicks' Will Not Serve Israel*JN1409152291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Sep 91*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: We have said on many occasions in the past that U.S. policy in the Middle East and its application on the Arab-Zionist struggle do not take into consideration the vital U.S. interests in this part of the

world. This is because, taken from most angles, this policy looks as though it was drafted by Israeli hands.

We remember this concept today as we witness a confrontation between the Israeli political position, which considers that nothing is worthy of consideration in the United States and the world outside the framework of Zionist interests, and a U.S. political position, which is trying to look at the region through U.S. lenses that are outside the Israeli telescope; seeking U.S. interests when dealing with the facts and ideas in the Middle East.

Through his present image, which has been formed by the story of the loan guarantees that Israel requested from Washington to finance settlement activities and the continued building of settlements, President Bush is trying to prove that U.S. foreign policy is Washington's own prerogative. Neither Israel nor the Zionist lobby groups in U.S. circles and on Capitol Hill has the right to dictate U.S. Administration policy. By taking such a position, the U.S. President is trying to emphasize that Washington is committed to the peace process, that it is not prepared to contradict its utterances or lose its credibility in the Middle East and in front of the entire world just to satisfy Israel and meet its terms, which even the U.S. political phrases describe as contrary to the march toward peace.

The various Israeli political and information circles, and the head of the Israeli Government, Shamir, himself have raised a hue and cry against President Bush's request that the U.S. Congress postpone discussion on Israel's loan guarantees request for 120 days, with the aim of promoting the Middle East peace process. This hue and cry is an exposed Zionist attempt working in two clear directions: the first is aimed at instigating the Zionist lobbies in the United States, especially in the Congress, against the U.S. President to subject him to the harshest methods of pressure to force him to retract his position and allow the Congress to approve the guarantees for Israel; and the second is aimed at creating a pretext to enable Israel to dissociate itself from the peace process, hinder the U.S. and international efforts in this regard, and plunge the region in a new round of tension and struggle, the eventual dangers of which nobody can predict.

We believe that this Zionist clamor and Israel's political gimmicks in Europe, during Shamir's recent trip to Paris, will not end in serving Israeli interests if the U.S. Administration is serious, as it seems to be now, in going ahead with the peace process in accordance with its programs, and if it is determined to prefer U.S. vital interests to Israel's interests in a world which is formed today on declared bases, none of which are to Israel's liking, and none of which serve Israel's interests and its well-known program of expansion and aggression.

Afghanistan

Reportage on Reaction to Soviet-U.S. Statement

Parliament Leaders Hear Report

LD1309182291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] This afternoon at the presidency headquarters, esteemed President of Afghanistan Najibollah met Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jerga, and Dr. Mahmud Habibi, chairman of the Senate of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan. Najibollah briefed them about the contents of the Soviet-U.S. joint statement on Afghanistan.

The chairmen of both houses of the Meli Shura welcomed the Soviet-U.S. agreement on reduction in the delivery and end to weapons delivery to the relevant parties. They expressed pleasure with the agreement of the above countries on a political solution to the Afghanistan issue, which took place [word indistinct] of a statement by the UN secretary general, dated 21 May 1991.

The chairman of both houses also expressed hope that all relevant parties, in consideration of the national interests and realities, choose a flexible approach for ending the bloodshed.

In a separate meeting, the Executive Board of the Central Council of the Homeland Party met today under the chairmanship of President Najibollah, chairman of the Homeland Party.

The session discussed a report on the provision of the joint statement by the Soviet Union and the U.S. on Afghanistan. After exchanging views, the session considered it to be useful for the restoration of peace and stability in the country. The session approved the document.

Najibollah Sends Messages

LD1409153291 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, 23 Sonbola [14 Sep] (BAKHTAR)—In sending the following separate messages to USSR President M.S. Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush, esteemed Najibollah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, expressed the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan's support for the statement of the Soviet Union and U.S. on Afghanistan dated 12 September 1991.

In expressing my best wishes to your excellencies, I am pleased to declare the support of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan for the joint statement by the Soviet Union and the United States on Afghanistan dated 12 September 1991. In considering the content of the statement, I would like to say that this statement parallels the peace-seeking efforts of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the goodwill efforts of the United Nations, and the five-point statement of the UN

secretary general on achieving a political solution in the Republic of Afghanistan, dated 21 May 1991.

Harmony in the manner of approach and vision by Afghan and international society on a political solution to the situation in the Afghanistan guarantee the restoration of peace in our persecuted country. This is particularly true in regard to the external aspects of the issue, the common Soviet-U.S. view and understanding, and the agreement by all relevant sides on a single formula and mechanism for a political solution. In this regard, the recent joint statement is a major fundamental step in the right direction.

From my point of view, the recent Soviet-United States joint statement clearly demonstrates the common view, harmonious approach, and manner of vision and approach of the United States and the Soviet Union. It also heralds the political solution of a complicated issue. This will broadly assist the expansion and further consolidation of understanding and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in connection with advantageous bilateral relations between the two countries and the solution of regional and international issues.

With faith that the Soviet Union and the United States have great potential and means to assist the people of Afghanistan in choosing a harmonious stance regarding the cessation of war, achieving peace, reconstructing Afghanistan, and in offering assistance to returning Afghan refugees, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan considers the recent joint statement by the two countries as a major step forward in achieving the political solution of the situation in the Republic of Afghanistan. I hereby give assurances to your excellencies about cooperation and joint efforts, both from myself and the government of the Republic of Afghanistan in this respect.

Once again I express my best wishes.

[Signed] Najibollah, president of Afghanistan

Resistance Gives Cautious Welcome

BK1309122291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT
13 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Sept 13 (AFP)—Afghan guerrilla leaders cautiously welcomed Friday's agreement between Moscow and Washington to stop arms supplies to both sides of the Afghan civil war but said they hoped concrete steps would follow to end the conflict.

"Anything which contributes to a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict is welcomed," a spokesman of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) said.

But the moderate pro-West group said that the "people deciding to halt weapons delivery to warring factions should now take concrete measures for peace otherwise it will create a menacing imbalance favouring those who are already heavily armed."

A spokesman of the Hezb-e-Islami of fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar believed that withdrawal of foreign interference would bring a solution closer.

"This should have been done much earlier," Qutubuddin Hilal, chief of the party's political wing said. "The two superpowers should keep their hands off and leave alone the mujahedin who are capable of deciding their (own) fate."

He hoped the understanding would be implemented "scrupulously" and the (?provision) would not be "misused" on the pretext of humanitarian assistance to Kabul.

The Soviet Union and the United States Friday announced that from January 1, 1992, they would cut off arms supplies to rival sides engaged in the 13-year-old war in Afghanistan, which has claimed more than a million lives.

After talks in Moscow, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin told reporters that a status quo would be maintained between now and January 1.

There will be no increase in the flow of arms to either the Soviet-backed government in Kabul or the Afghan resistance helped by the United States, they said.

Moscow and Washington hoped that other countries would follow their lead with both Baker and Pankin stressing that the move was aimed at bringing about a ceasefire followed by elections in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union, which agreed to end its nine-year military occupation of Afghanistan under the Geneva accord in April 1988, had rejected a resistance demand to end arms shipments to both sides. [passages omitted]

'Neutral' Political Group Comments

BK1309134691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sept 13 (AFP)—The U.S.-Soviet agreement to cut arms supplies to the warring parties in Afghanistan is an important step towards peace but does not go far enough, a Kabul-based group of political neutrals said here Friday.

"We welcome it, it is an important step, but it is not enough because both sides have a lot of arms," said Professor Mohammad Asghar, head of the National Salvation Society.

"It is essential to work fast towards a ceasefire, for the United Nations to do that with the agreement of the two (Washington and Moscow), because as you know several extremists groups are now preparing an all out attack on Kabul," he said in a telephone interview.

Cautioning that he had yet to hear the full text of the agreement, scheduled to go into effect January 1, 1992,

Asghar Said, "with the pending attacks and winter coming, thousands of people could die before then, that is three months away."

Asghar was expressing widely held apprehension here that the mujahedin trying to overthrow the Soviet-backed government would go ahead with a planned offensive on Kabul and other major cities regardless of the cut-down decision which allows arms supplies to remain at the same level until January.

"It is a good thing, but what will happen before then," said one South Asian diplomat here.

Mujahedin Commander Welcomes Decision

BK1409072891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0719 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 14 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahedin Saturday welcomed the decision by Washington and Moscow to stop delivering arms to the two sides of the Afghan conflict by the end of the year.

"We hope the Soviets will be sincere," said Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the Jamiat-e-Islami mujahedin faction and a leading member of the U.S.-backed resistance's interim government based here.

"An effective halt to Soviet aid to Kabul would be a positive development," he said in a written statement, adding that the decision announced in Moscow on Friday would have "practically no effect" on the mujahedin because U.S. arms deliveries had become rare "some time ago."

"We hope the Soviets have learned some lessons from the past and that they are ready to face the realities, to have relations with the Afghan nation instead of with this band of traitors and criminals" in power in Kabul, Rabbani said.

Bangladesh

Zia Seeks Affirmative Vote in 15 Sep Referendum

BK1209160491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1331 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear countrymen, peace be upon you. The referendum is going to be held (?throughout the country) next Sunday, 15 September. I am here before you today to say a few words in connection with the referendum, because it will remain as a landmark in our nation's march toward democracy. A democratic government has been established in the country through a neutral election and by bringing the autocracy to an end. An opportunity has come to run the country's administration on the basis of the people's opinion. And now the referendum has been arranged so as to further strengthen democracy in the country. I had made a pledge to you that I would directly

bring to you any issue of national importance whenever a decision was needed on it because it is you who enjoy the sovereignty in this country. The parliament has been constituted with the representatives elected by you. Therefore, it is the duty of our government and the parliament to run the affairs of the state in accordance with your wishes and aspirations.

Dear countrymen, you are certainly aware of the fact that the people's verdict should be ascertained when making changes in several important provisions of the Constitution. The referendum system was introduced during the Bangladesh Nationalist Party government under President Ziaur Rahman. We believe that a major change in the Constitution may not be accepted by the people if the change is made by avoiding them. You must not have forgotten such a bitter experience in the history of constitutional amendments.

Dear countrymen, the parliamentary elections were held on 27 February in an atmosphere free from the autocracy following which this august parliament was formed. We decided to establish the parliamentary system of government, replacing the 16-year-old presidential form so as to further strengthen the foundation of democracy. [Words indistinct] we presented the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill in the parliament on 2 July. The historic bill was unanimously passed immediately after midnight on 6 August last following prolonged discussions on it. The exuberant jubilation on the passage of the bill marks a unique event in the history of the nation.

The referendum has been arranged to ascertain whether you support the bill, which was passed by the parliament. We have now reached the final phase of giving democracy a firm footing. We seek your opinion in favor of the parliamentary system of government in place of the presidential system. The parliamentary system of government will be formally implemented only after ascertaining your verdict in the referendum scheduled for next Sunday. Therefore I appeal to you all to vote in the affirmative in the referendum and to make the democratic process successful.

Dear countrymen, we will start a fresh march toward democracy and development after you have given your verdict in the referendum. Hoping that the march will augur well and bring welfare and dignity to the people, I appeal to all of you to participate in the referendum, thereby making the democratic process successful. I pray to God the Almighty in this regard. Let it be proved once again through the referendum that the people are the source of all power. Let it be proved that it is the people who will decide how to run this country. Therefore, come and take part in the referendum and vote in the affirmative. May God help us. May God take care of you. Long Live Bangladesh.

Security Tightened Before Vote

BK1409054491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0524 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 14 (AFP)—The authorities have tightened security by deploying police and para-military personnel ahead of Sunday's historic referendum to decide Bangladesh's form of government, officials said Saturday.

They said the military would be called in if any serious trouble arose at polling centres throughout the country, where some 62 million people were expected to vote on whether to revert to parliamentary rule after 16 years of presidential rule.

A 24-hour ban on carrying weapons and explosives and on passage of vehicles within 200 yards (metres) of polling centres will go into effect at midnight Saturday, the officials said.

Sunday, a normal working day in Moslem Bangladesh, has been declared a holiday for the voting, an official announcement said.

In August, the 330-member National Parliament voted to restore parliamentary government.

If the referendum, required under the constitution, endorses the change, Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed will sign it into law.

The prime minister will then become the head of government as well as hold all executive powers. The president will become a titular head of state only.

Bangladesh's founding father, president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, introduced presidential rule months before he was killed and his Awami League government toppled in a military coup in 1975.

This politically volatile South Asian country's three major opposition political alliances agreed during last year's campaign that ousted president Hussain Mohammad Ershad to revert to parliamentary government so that "no new dictator was born."

The alliances include Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

Both Zia and Wajed, the leader of the parliamentary opposition, have called on Bangladeshis to vote in favour of reverting to a parliamentary type government.

"The September 15 referendum will be a pointer in our national life in its journey towards democracy," Zia said Thursday in a televised address to the nation.

"Let this journey be auspicious and great and one that will bring us good," she added.

Wajed said in a statement published Saturday the change would "strengthen the country's democratic process as

well as help realise the dreams of the martyrs of the country's (1971) independence war" with Pakistan.

The change would also speed development, which will improve living standards, she said.

Rain, Flooding Mars Voting

BK1509051291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0501 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 15 (AFP)—Rains and continuing floods marred Bangladesh's historic referendum Sunday, to decide whether the nation will keep its 16-year-old presidential system or revert to a parliamentary style of government.

Some 62 million are eligible to vote in the nationwide referendum which began early Sunday, but officials fear a low turnout follow the passage of a bill in parliament last month to switch over to a parliamentary system.

In two polling centres in north Dhaka only a few voters could be seen casting their votes in the first two hours.

Weather officials said heavy rains were likely to continue sporadically in Dhaka with northern and western regions already gripped by late monsoon flooding that has left 134 people dead.

The election commission said special arrangements had been made to help people vote in flood-hit areas.

Sunday, a normal working day in Moslem Bangladesh, was declared a public holiday to encourage a large turnout in the referendum which is required under the constitution to authorise acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed to sign the constitution amendment bill into law.

A simple majority in favour will be enough to legalise the change of governmental system.

A negative vote, considered highly unlikely by analysts here, would mean the continuation of the current presidential system.

Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, introduced the presidential system before he was killed and his Awami League government toppled in a violent military coup in 1975.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, whose Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) came to power in February elections following the December ouster of president Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his eight-year-old government, had appealed for people to vote for the bill.

Opposition parties, including the Awami League—now headed by Rahman's daughter Sheikh Hasina Wajed—also campaigned for a positive vote, saying it would help further institutionalise democracy in politically volatile Bangladesh.

Since winning independence from Pakistan in 1971 following a nine-month armed war, Bangladesh has witnessed several coups and prolonged bouts of martial law.

Initial Results Reported

BK1509161991 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Referendum results received so far from the Election Commission show overwhelming support for the country's switchover to parliamentary form of government. [passage omitted] Our representative from the Election Commission has just reported that so far 772,034 voters have voted yes, while 138,472 voters have given no vote.

The first ever referendum on the question of constitutional amendment was held peacefully throughout the country today. According to Election Commission sources, the polling which began at 0800 in the morning continued till 1700 in the afternoon without any break. Counting of votes began immediately after completion of polling. Though there was no report of any untoward incident from any part of the country, moderate to very heavy rainfall in different areas, particularly in the Dhaka City, obstructed many voters from going to the polling centers. Though the turnout initially was less because of rainfall, voters in large numbers started coming to the polling centers after the rainfall stopped at 1400. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh Nationalist Party Wins Seat Majority

BK1409041791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0413 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 14 (AFP)—The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) now has an absolute majority in the 330-member national parliament after winning five seats in this week's by-elections, parliamentary sources said. They said the BNP and the opposition Awami League (AL) further strengthened their positions after two independent MPs joined the two top parties, adding that the AL also gained four new MPs when a quartet defected from the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League recently.

Standings in the 330-seat parliament now stand at 170 for the BNP, 92 for the AL, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, 35 for the Jatiya Party of deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, 20 for the right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami Party and five for the Communist Party of Bangladesh. The other eight are shared by smaller parties, the sources said.

Of the 11 seats that were at stake in Wednesday's by-elections, the BNP won five, the JP four and the AL two. The Jamaat and six independents drew a blank.

The sources said the BNP would no longer have to depend on the Jamaat—which helped it to form the government—to help it pass legislation.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her BNP government were appointed in March by acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed, following the party's victory in the country's first free elections in February.

Strike Called on Sheikh Hasina Assassination Bid

BK1409024091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0223 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 14 (AFP)—A six-hour nationwide general strike called by Bangladesh's top opposition party to condemn an assassination attempt on its leader during by-elections earlier week gripped this capital city Saturday.

It was the first such stoppage since the fall of president Hussain Mohammad Ershad from power in December and the installation of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia six months ago.

The Awami League called for the nationwide strike to condemn an assassination bid during Wednesday's by-elections on its leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

Several gunmen opened fire and set off a series of bombs when she went to visit a polling centre in the city, witnesses and the party said.

Wajed, who heads the opposition in parliament, accused the BNP of trying to kill her, which the BNP denied.

"The half-day strike on Saturday is to express our anguish at such an incident when we are struggling to establish democracy in the country," a party spokesman said, adding that they were also demanding an enquiry and repolling in some of the polling centres where violence was reported.

He said some 30 flood-hit Bangladesh districts were outside the purview of the work stoppage.

Meanwhile, shops were shuttered and traffic, except for a few pedicabs, was absent from the streets as riot police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles were out in full force.

At Farm Gate area a small group of Awami League supporters marched on the empty main road, shouting "Attack on Sheikh Hasina, Government must answer," and calling on people to observe the strike.

Commuters were using the few available pedicabs—paying double the normal fare—or were walking to their offices, while some stayed in their offices overnight. Most offices had not reopened.

The DAINIK JANATA newspaper reported that BNP leaders said the strike had to be resisted at all costs, to discourage more work stoppages.

"This strike is against development and a conspiracy against democracy," the leaders were quoted as saying.

Motor Vehicle Operation Affected

BK1409155691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Motor vehicles were off the roads in the capital till midday today because of a hartal [strike] call by Awami League. Rickshaws and rickshaw vans however plied during the period.

Iran

Yazdi Rejects U.S. Military Presence

LD1309122791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Delivering the Tehran Friday prayer sermons today, Ayatollah Yazdi, head of judicial power, explained the worldwide human rights problem, saying that Islamic sources in that field were unique. Referring to the Seminar on the Recognition and Foundations of Human Rights, which was held in Tehran in this week, Tehran's acting Friday prayer leader expressed his delight over holding such seminars. He said that Islam possesses the richest sources on human rights, as well as the most powerful methods for their implementation. The head of judicial power stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to prove that point in an international meeting with the presence of world experts. Continuing his sermons, Ayatollah Yazdi referred to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's visit to Iran and called for speedy efforts to implement the remaining clauses of Security Council Resolution 598. He then discussed the recent Nonaligned Movement meeting, stressing the correct stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran in rejecting any form of recognition for the Zionist regime in international forums. He underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran would oppose the legitimacy of the Zionist regime in all the forums. Referring to the new military pact between the United States and Kuwait, he condemned the U.S. military presence in the region in any form, calling it the cause of additional insecurity. Continuing the sermons, Ayatollah Yazdi referred to domestic issues. He said the current census is a very important project and called on every individual member of society to cooperate in that field.

Velayati, Visiting Perez de Cuellar Meet Press

LD1309143791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who led a UN delegation to Tehran to hold discussions with Islamic Republic of Iran officials, left Tehran today. Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati saw him off when he departed.

Upon his departure from Tehran, the UN secretary general, in an interview with our correspondent, thanked

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati for inviting him to our country and said that during his visit to Tehran he discussed various issues, including: implementation of Resolution 598, proposals on solving the Afghan problem, and issues pertaining to Persian Gulf stability and security. The UN secretary general stressed the importance of implementing Resolution 598 and clauses five through seven—on solving problems between Iran and Iraq—and said that a significant part of his discussions with the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran concentrated on implementation of that resolution and clauses six through eight. The UN secretary general said complete cooperation exists between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations concerning implementation of clause three of the resolution on freeing POWs from Iran and Iraq. The UN secretary general said the Afghan problem is the common concern of the United Nations and Iran. Referring to his five point proposal on solving the Afghan problem, he said: Some support has been given by the Islamic Republic of Iran for those proposals. The UN secretary general said, on the basis of the reports received from Moscow and Washington today concerning Afghanistan, that the United States and the USSR are ready to stop their arms aid to the warring sides in Afghanistan from January 1992. On Persian Gulf security plans, Perez de Cuellar said: We had complete understanding on Persian Gulf stability and security in our Tehran talks. My understanding is that Iran wants Persian Gulf security and stability. Referring to his visit to Saudi Arabia, he said that he will continue his talks on regional security, and he will also discuss the issue of cooperation in that regard with the representatives of the Arab member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh.

Velayati also elaborated on the Tehran discussions with the UN secretary general.

Velayati Comments on Visit

LD1309165891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Comments by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Velayati, during the past few days you had intensive negotiations with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, as well as multilateral negotiations with Afghan and Pakistani officials on issues of mutual interest. Could you tell us about about the issues you discussed with Mr. Perez de Cuellar in Tehran?

[Velayati] We discussed the important issue of Articles Six, Seven, and Eight of [UN Security Council] Resolution 598. Fortunately, he has started to take steps in recent months. There is a lot of hope that within the next few weeks we will see serious and clear indications pointing to the implementation of the said articles.

Concerning Afghanistan, all those involved—led by Afghan mojahedin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan—have concluded that the Afghan problem must reach a conclusion as soon as possible and that a Muslim and nonaligned government based on the wishes of the Afghan people should take power in that country so that bloodshed and fratricide is stopped. Iran has been even more active during the recent months in this regard. We witnessed the Islamabad and Tehran sessions. Following those sessions, one of the decisions made was to contact international organizations. This was the most important task. We continued our contacts with Mr. Perez de Cuellar and Mr. Sevan, the special representative on Afghan affairs who accompanied him in this trip. An important part of our talks during this trip was dedicated to Afghanistan. Let me say this: Considering the presence of the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and outstanding leaders of the mojahedin alongside Mr. Perez de Cuellar in Iran, and the active involvement of the honorable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, positive steps have been taken. God willing, we will witness good progress for a just solution to the Afghan problem.

The other issue that is very important for us, countries of the region, and the world is the issue of security in the Persian Gulf. Based on Article Eight of Resolution 598, the secretary general has the mandate to facilitate the establishment of security through consultation with the countries of the region. This is at the forefront of the foreign policy of Iran. This issue is of fundamental priority for Iran.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

LD1409214191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation on Saturday evening and was welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati. On arrival in Tehran, in an interview with our reporter, he expressed his pleasure about his visit to Iran. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran plays an important and sensitive role in the region. In the course of my visit, I will be holding discussions with Iranian officials on regional issues and relations between Iran and Lebanon.

The Lebanese Foreign Minister added: I am carrying a written message from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The important factor is that Lebanon is anxious to deepen and enhance its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. I hope this visit will be an important step toward that end.

Mr. Besharati, describing the Lebanese foreign minister's visit to Tehran as significant, said: This visit is taking place at the invitation of Foreign Minister Velayati. It will be effective in improving the two countries' relations.

Buwayz, Velayati View Iran's Support for Lebanon

LD1509110491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who is in Tehran on a three day official visit, met and conferred with Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, this morning. Important international and regional issues, mutual relations, and current problems in Lebanon were reviewed during that meeting.

The Lebanese foreign minister referred to the current situation in his country and said: We wish to have deeper and broader relations between the two countries because of the Islamic Republic of Iran's might and credibility. He also emphasized the need for the utilization of the Islamic Republic of Iran's vast capabilities in Lebanon.

In other remarks about the situation in Lebanon, Mr. Faris Buwayz referred to the hostage problem, asserting that a conclusive solution of that problem would effectively assist the solution of a number of internal problems in Lebanon. The Lebanese foreign minister stressed the efforts of the government and the people of his country to liberate the southern territories of Lebanon from the Zionists' occupation. He called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to seriously support his country's efforts toward realizing that issue. During the meeting the Lebanese foreign minister invited Mr. Velayati to visit Lebanon at the first convenient time.

Mr. Velayati responded by emphasizing Lebanon's particular significance and the special place it holds in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy. He said: We insist on the deepening and expansion of relations between the two countries, and we are serious and sincere in our decision. Mr. Velayati also expressed appreciation for the Lebanese Government's decision and the efforts of the people of Lebanon toward forcing the Zionists out of that country. He announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to seriously support those efforts.

Mr. Velayati added: We believe that without resistance in south Lebanon, it is impossible to free that region. Therefore, the strengthening of the resistance and the coordination of all groups with each other and with the government can play an important and effective role in freeing southern Lebanon.

On the hostage problem, Mr. Velayati said: We are the first victims of that problem, and we hope that the efforts of the UN secretary general will help in finding a conclusive solution to the problem. In our opinion, all sides should cooperate constructively with the UN secretary general.

Khamene'i Criticizes U.S. New World Order

LD1409200691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, received Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his accompanying delegation this evening. At the meeting, the leader graciously underlined the need for resolving international Islamic issues and destroying factors responsible for provoking discord among Muslims. He also stressed the need for safeguarding the interests, honor, independence, and scientific, cultural, and technical growth of nations in the new world order.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a number of the country's ministers and officials were also present at the meeting. The leader of the Islamic revolution described the unity, fraternity, and solidarity between the two countries of Iran and Pakistan as advantageous to the world of Islam. He said: The fate of the Islamic world is dependent on the links between Muslim nations. In our opinion, the great force of Muslim nations, which control the strategic, sensitive, and vital regions of the world, can be influential not only in terms of the advantage of the Muslims, but also in securing the interests, honor, and tranquility of all humanity.

Elsewhere in his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described as tragic the division of the world into two regions—those enjoying all the resources and those under influence. He emphasized the need for Muslim nations to decisively confront such an order in the world. He said: The new order that America is bent on establishing guarantees humiliation of nations, and connotes the existence of a great empire, headed by America, followed by European powers. However, the Third World nations will not endure such a phenomenon. Islam does not allow Muslim nations to yield to any kind of humiliation.

The guardian of the cause of the Muslims deemed the realization of the rights of the Palestinian nation by virtue of the return of the occupied Palestinian territory to that country's nation to be the only just solution to that issue. He added: Muslim governments and nations reject the plan based on divesting Muslims of control over Palestine, and its surrender of control to the occupiers. The usurper must leave, and Palestine must be returned to its rightful owner.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i termed the encountering of the insidious and adulterated hands working toward creating discord and dissension among Muslims as an absolute necessity. Addressing Pakistan's president, he said: We must earnestly endeavor to consolidate Islamic unity. Under conditions in which governments, nations, and countries are establishing unions on the basis of various common denominators, Islamic countries must establish a genuine and practical unity on the basis of common beliefs.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed the need for enhancing Iran-Pakistan cooperation toward resolving the international Islamic issues and increasing the economic, cultural, and political ties. He described the close relations between the two countries as inspiring and reassuring hope.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed his pleasure at meeting the leader of the Islamic revolution and praised the prominent personality of His Eminence Imam Khomeini, may he be admitted to paradise, as the reviver of Islam.

In his remarks Khan underlined the need for encountering the new imperialism in the guise of the new world order. He said: Under the present circumstances, unity among Muslim ranks is a necessity. The president of Pakistan added: We welcome any new order that promotes peace, friendship, justice, realization of rights, the principle of noninterference in countries' affairs, and the abolishment of hegemony and the infringement of the rights of the oppressed in Palestine, Kashmir, and other parts of the world. If the new order acts as a means of imposing new imperialism in the world, it will have to be condemned. The president of Pakistan also remarked on the progress achieved in his talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, declaring his country's preparedness for expanding cooperation in issues of mutual interest to the two countries.

Iranian, Pakistani Presidents Comment on Visit

LD1509170891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who came to Iran on an official invitation from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, left Tehran for Pakistan this afternoon after a four-day visit. He was officially seen off by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, civil and military officials, and foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Before Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan's departure, the presidents of Iran and Pakistan answered reporters' questions. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told our reporter:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We achieved everything we were expecting to achieve. We discuss bilateral issues of cooperation and we reached agreement in all fields. Agreements were signed. The relevant ministers signed them. We expect our cooperation to increase in a satisfactory manner in the future.

As you know, we do not have a suitable level of cooperation. Despite the extent of our friendship with the people of Pakistan, our joint activities are not extensive. As a result of these agreements, God willing, our cooperation will increase in all areas.

As for regional issues, we discussed Afghanistan, regional security, and international issues. We benefited

from His Excellency's views. Good decisions were made in connection with Afghanistan. Most important is the closeness of the official views. I think that is very good.

In some areas, there were discussions about putting an end to acts of mischief that normally occur. There are those who want to upset the ties between this nation and the Pakistani nation, or other nations. We must cooperate in maintaining unity.

The Pakistani president's visit provided a good opportunity for us. [end recording]

The Pakistani president said that bilateral issues were discussed and great benefit derived from the guidance given to during the visit with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution. He noted that the delegation discussed some issues with Khamene'i and achieved total understanding.

The Pakistani president added that there are no differences of opinion in any area and, in line with the efforts made by the two sides, five memorandums of understanding were signed. In some areas, such as transport, amazing progress was made. In connection with Afghanistan, good discussions were held. One of the important achievements of the discussions, apart from the achievements made in the fields of transport and the economy, is in regard to the issue of the exchange of ulema between the two countries. The Pakistani president added that he had the honor of being the first president of a foreign country to address the Majles. The Majles speaker spoke about Afghanistan and Kashmir, and we are in agreement.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1509223791 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15 IRNA—A joint communique released simultaneously in Tehran and Islamabad today at the end of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's visit, expressed satisfaction with bilateral ties and reiterated the two countries' commitment to consolidate multifaceted collaboration in various fields.

It said the Iranian and Pakistani presidents recognizing that "infrastructural links were vital in bringing the two peoples closer," welcomed several memorandums of understanding including the one concluded on building a joint oil refinery in Pakistan and export of Iranian gas to that country.

Other memorandums listed by the communique were cooperation in the railways, communications, road construction and postal services.

It said Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ghulam Ishaq Khan reviewed the situation in Afghanistan and called for a "speedy and just political settlement" of the problem which continues to inflict great sufferings on the people of that country.

"While re-affirming their support for the UN secretary general's peace efforts, they called for redoubled endeavors for an early political settlement in Afghanistan in accordance with the wishes of the Afghan people," the communique added.

It also paid tribute to the jihad (holy struggle) of the Afghan mujahedin, and said the two presidents noted with satisfaction the two rounds of tripartite talks held in Islamabad and in Tehran involving Iran, Pakistan and mujahedin groups based in the two countries.

The communique said the two presidents expressed concern over the "continued indiscriminate killing of the Muslims in Kashmir," and called for an end to the oppression of Kashmiris and "respect for human rights and realization of their wishes according to relevant UN resolutions."

On the situation in the Persian Gulf the two sides emphasized the need for cooperation among regional countries to promote stability in the region. They stated that regional security should be only the responsibility of the regional states. Pakistan welcomed the improvement of relations between Iran and Persian Gulf states.

The communique while underlining the need for the liberation of all Palestinian lands "particularly the city of al-Quds," declared support for the intifada of the Palestinian people.

It said the two presidents also called for "renewed efforts to forge unity among the ranks of the Muslim ummah so that its economic, political and social potential could be fully utilized for the welfare and well-being of the Muslim people."

The communique taking note of "momentous transformations the world over" called for providing "further depth and substance" to cooperation among Pakistan, Iran and Turkey within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO].

It also expressed the hope that the ECO summit scheduled to be held in Tehran later this year would take the necessary decisions to give impetus to purposeful cooperation among the ECO member states.

In view of the "deep and close relations" between the two countries, concluded the communique, the president of Pakistan was received by the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i, and accorded the "unique honour" of addressing the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis - parliament).

Turkish Accusations of Support to Kurds Denied

LD1309135591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The Turkish ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this morning to receive Iran's protest over remarks by Turkey's first deputy

foreign minister. Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asian-Pacific affairs, strongly denied that border forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran supported the Kurdish guerrillas who had armed encounters with that Turkey's government. Turkey's first deputy foreign minister told our country's ambassador in Ankara last night that interference by border forces of the Islamic Republic in that encounter led to the deaths of several members of that country's armed forces. Borujerdi told the Turkish ambassador: The Islamic Republic of Iran has not supported the guerrillas in any way; it believes that the United States, by giving false intelligence and with a view to preventing expansion of relations among the Muslim countries of the region, is the principal party in determining the course of such currents. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in good-neighborly relations with all the countries of the region, especially the neighboring countries. According to policies already set, the Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in ever-expanding ties between the two countries.

Government Reportedly Establishes Martial Law

NC1509111491 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] While popular protests in the form of antiregime demonstrations and marches are continuing in Tehran and in the cities, we have been informed that the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran has held a long meeting and has decided to establish martial law throughout the country without any announcement and to implement it (?within 24 hours). During this session, it was said that the demonstrations and unrest in Tehran and other cities stem mainly from the shortage of food and general provisions and from the high prices and economic chaos. It was also said that, if the regime is unable to overcome these problems immediately, the Islamic Republic will be threatened with dangerous consequences.

Reports from sources inside the regime have indicated that the recent session of the Supreme National Security Council discussed the resignation of a number of ministers and Majlis deputies, as well as the wave of resignations of military and civilian personalities. Concern was expressed that such activity in the administrative organs will intensify strikes and demonstrations and that the dissemination of [words indistinct] and news on such acts should be prevented as much as possible.

Reports have said that the demonstrations and strikes have had a great impact on the contrived Friday prayers in Tehran and in other cities in that only a small number of people attended, and one report adds that the Friday prayers ceremonies were not performed in several cities on Friday 13 September. The same report indicates that even the paid people, the employees of the so-called revolutionary foundations and institutions, and others who receive wages are overtly refusing to attend Friday prayers.

A report from Tehran has said that only about 2,000 people participated in the contrived Friday prayer at Tehran University. A large number of riot police were deployed in and around the universities, a fire truck was parked in front of Tehran University, and the ceremony was placed under strict control.

Another report has indicated that slogans calling Hashemi-Rafsanjani a compromiser were heard several times from the crowd during Judiciary Head Mohammad Yazdi's sermon. To prevent the dissemination of anti-Rafsanjani slogans, the FM program that was broadcasting the Friday Prayers was interrupted several times, and the announcer said that the interruptions were due to technical problems. After the slogans against Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government were chanted, several people were arrested and immediately removed from the ceremony.

The report on the contrived Tehran Friday prayers goes on to say that, when the Friday prayers participants were leaving Tehran University, they faced a number of [words indistinct] outside the university premises who ridiculed and booed them. Following this incident, the hezbollahis and some Revolutionary Guards attacked the crowd, but the clashes ended when law enforcement agents intervened. Reports have indicated that about 16 people were wounded.

Vigilance Against Anti-Islamic 'Plots' Urged

*LD1609102491 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT
16 Sep 91*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—First Vice-President and Government spokesman Hasan Habibi here Monday underlined the necessity for "Iran's presence in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman." Habibi made the remark in his weekly press conference in which he stressed that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the course of the recent crisis in the region proved to be incompetent to defend itself without foreign support.

"If there is cooperation among regional states, there will be no need for presence of alien forces, the least impact of whose presence is damage to the environment," Habibi noted. The spokesman pointed to Iran's diplomatic efforts and her stand at international arena as an indication to her insight and stressed: "Our policy is based on good will towards good will."

Habibi stated that the GCC on the basis of its past performance, especially in the aftermath of last year Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, had come to the conclusion that it should cooperate with Iran.

As for plots against the Islamic revolution of Iran Habibi said, "any move to damage unity of the nation and prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran, either inside or outside the country, is considered a plot and people should be vigilant in this connection."

On the U.N. secretary general's trip to Iran last week, Habibi said that the main topic of the talks in Tehran was full implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 ending Iraq-Iran 1980-88 war. Stressing that Iraq did not favour implementation of Articles six, seven and eight of the resolution, the spokesman said that the U.N. and the world should treat the Iraq-Iran case just as they treated the Iraq-Kuwait case.

Editorial Urges Israel to Release Hostages

*LD1409103791 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT
14 Sep 91*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Saturday welcomed last Thursday's release of 51 Lebanese hostages by their Zionist captors stating that Israel and its allies should release the remaining some 400 hostages.

The editorial further added, "In the past the Iranian efforts were instrumental in getting several Western hostages back to their homes," adding, "since the UN secretary general involved himself in the issue, the hopes for closure of the hostage file have become greater and the continuous Iranian efforts may bring fruitful results."

Describing as "an encouraging sign" the release of the Lebanese hostages, the paper said that the act "should receive a favorable response." "The issue is very complicated and sensitive and before the good intentions of the Iranian officials can be in any way marred, Israel should take further steps for the release of more Muslims." "Today feelings of good intent can be traced among all the concerned parties and countries and none should miss this chance and do its best for the reunion of hostages and their families before their files go back again into cold storage," it concluded.

Pakistan

Anti-Pakistan Propaganda in U.S. Criticized

*BK1609102291 Islamabad THE MUSLIM
in English 15 Sep 91 p 6*

[Editorial: "Pakistan-Bashing Starts in U.S."]

[Text] All indications are that Pakistan has become America's latest target of propaganda attack. Washington's propaganda machine started cranking with the BCCI [Bank of Credit and Commerce International] affair, which provided the American media a field day in Pakistan-bashing. TIME magazine took the lead in discrediting Pakistan at the international level with a cover story at the end of July portraying Pakistanis as sleazy underground kingpins in drug dealing and money laundering. In another article in early September, TIME dramatically "exposed" Pakistan's role in providing nuclear weapons technology to itself, Iran, Iraq and Libya via BCCI. American television networks are now airing a six-hour special programme in the apparent

effort to show how far, wide and deep corruption connected with drugs and money laundering has spread in Pakistani society. Partly as a result of this spate of negative reporting, America has succeeded in getting Pakistan placed among the 'top ten' countries where such activities are increasing.

On the ground, Pakistanis living in the United States have had to bear the consequences of increased discrimination and racism as a result of this propaganda. Of great concern is the motive behind this spate of propaganda attack against Pakistan. The Americans are reportedly reviewing its aid programme to its traditional allies in the Third World, including Pakistan, whose aid programme has been temporarily suspended by the Pressler Amendment. Could the propaganda campaign be a pointer to a permanent aid cut-off? Washington is also reportedly reviewing its policy in South Asia. In swaying Americans' public opinion against Pakistan (which was never very friendly anyway), could Washington be preparing the domestic ground for dropping Pakistan as an ally in the region in favour of India? Or is Washington pressurising, if not blackmailing, Islamabad to toe the American line and act according to American interests on issues like Afghanistan and Occupied Kashmir amongst others? Or is Washington concerned that Pakistan would use the "illegal profit earnings" for its nuclear programme and to provide aid for the Afghan mojahedin after the Americans cut off their aid to them?

Whatever the motive may be, Washington is now apparently moving beyond propaganda and going on to the next step-direct pressure. The State Department is reportedly sending an official to Pakistan soon to labour the point that the money laundering and narcotics cultivation situation is "getting out of control". If the Americans fail to get what they want from Islamabad, it will not be surprising to see them mete out some form of punishment to Pakistan.

Reaction to U.S.-USSR Afghan Statement Reported

Foreign Affairs Secretary Comments

BK1409113891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1100 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Pakistan has expressed the hope that the U.S.-Soviet agreement reached in Moscow on the Afghan issue will help and provide impetus to the political process that is under way for reaching a package settlement of the conflict. This was stated by the secretary of foreign affairs, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, when contacted in Tehran for commenting on the Moscow agreement. He said Pakistan considers appropriate any announcement which leads to a political settlement of the Afghan issue and supports such a settlement. He said in the prevailing situation, the headway should be made soon and it would be better if the package settlement was completed within two to three months.

The foreign secretary elaborated that the package might include all problems, like when an interim government

would be formed and what it would be its shape, and when a cease-fire would take place, and when an arrangement for the return of refugees be made. The foreign secretary made it clear once again that the present leader of the Kabul regime should have no place in any future arrangement that is negotiated.

Foreign Office Welcomes Accord

BK1509163391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1600 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Pakistan has expressed the hope that the United States and the Soviet Union's decision to cut off all supplies to all Afghan sides from next year will be faithfully implemented. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan welcomes the announcement as it contained a positive reference to the statement of the UN secretary general issued on 21 May. The spokesman hoped that the interim period would not be used to strengthen the illegal Najibullah regime rejected by the overwhelming majority of Afghans. He said Pakistan actually favored a package approach that could include understanding on all elements of the UN secretary general's five-point proposals for a political settlement. The spokesman stressed that an early political settlement acceptable to the vast majority of Afghan people is vital for peace and stability of our region. Peace in Afghanistan will also allow the people of the entire region to engage in fruitful cooperation in political and economic spheres.

Commentary Welcomes Joint Statement

BK1509095291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Mohammad Yamin Commentary]

[Text] The U.S.-Soviet agreement to stop arming their respective Afghan allies must be seen as a major breakthrough in the peace process on Afghanistan that had become somewhat stagnant since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan which was completed in February 1989 in pursuance of the Geneva accord signed a year earlier. The Afghan factions had failed to reach an agreement on an interim arrangement and the elections for a future government, and therein fighting had continued unabated.

The UN-sponsored peace process gathered fresh momentum with the secretary general's May 21st initiative when he proposed a five-point proposal to break the stalemate. As a result, a number of rounds of negotiations have taken place between Iran and Pakistan and representatives of the mojahedin groups, [and] between the Soviets on the one side and Iran, Pakistan and mojahedin groups on the other. Also, the UN secretary general has held discussions with all parties to the dispute. The secretary general himself held talks with the mojahedin leaders during his recent Tehran visit. In the words of the UN secretary general, the superpower decision to cut off arms supplies to the warring Afghan

sides represents a major contribution to the achievement of cease-fire in the Afghan civil war which is a key point in his peace plan.

Pakistan's foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, has in an interview with the BBC expressed cautious optimism over the Soviet-U.S. agreement on negative symmetry in the supply of arms which will take effect from the 1st of January next year. It would be recalled that at the time of the signing of the Geneva accord in 1988 Pakistan had expressed itself in favor of a suspension of further arms supplies to Afghans as a means of achieving cease-fire. The United States had held the same view. However, the Soviet Union continued providing strategic arms replenishment to Kabul, and the United States, as a co-guarantor of the Geneva accord, was left with no option but to continue its arms assistance to the mujahedin.

Two of the Pakistan-based mujahedin groups—the Hezb-e Eslami and the Jamiat-e Eslami—have welcomed the arms suspension decision. The Jamiat leaders have in fact pointed out that the freedom fighters have virtually received no supplies from the United States for a long time.

They 13-year-old Afghan conflict had devastated the country. Millions of Afghans have perished and millions have sought refuge in other countries, particularly Pakistan and Iran, the two Islamic neighbors that have borne the brunt of this human tragedy with great courage and fortitude.

The superpower agreement thus envisages not only a total cutoff of arms supplies by the end of this year, but also nonintensification of supplies in the interim. It also appeals to the United Nations and other countries to help Afghanistan set up a transitional institution to organize elections in Afghanistan. All these are positive moves and from Pakistan's point of view, as well as from Iran's viewpoint, should be expected to provide congenial circumstances for an end to the Afghan civil war and honorable return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland, and grant an opportunity to the Afghan people to exercise their right to self-determination and the election of a government of their own choice, safeguarding Afghanistan's independence, nonaligned and Islamic character.

It is also to be hoped that the ruling junta at Kabul would clearly see the writing on the wall and step aside without any further delay to spare the Afghan people any further loss of life and property. Recent developments around the world, particularly Eastern Europe and Soviet Union, should bring these lessons home clearly to Najibullah and his coterie in Kabul.

Secretary-Level Talks With India Postponed

BK1409144491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1400 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The fifth round of Pakistan-India foreign secretary-level talks have been postponed at India's request.

This was stated by a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad today. The spokesman said that the talks are now expected to be held next month and a date will be worked out keeping in view the mutual convenience of the two countries.

Police Seize Large Supply of Arms Near Tal

BK1409155091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] According to a handout released in Peshawar today, the Kohat Police recovered a huge quantity of foreign-made arms and ammunition during an operation near Tal. A police assistant subinspector and a constable received minor injuries during the encounter with the smugglers. The weapons included 47 rockets, 100 anti-tank guns, 160 (?rocket) bombs, 12 MDR type of multi-barrel [as heard] rockets, 400 mortar shells and 26 hand grenades.

Bhutto's Appeal To Summon Ishaq Khan, Sharif

BK1609064991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] In Lahore yesterday, the special court comprising Mr. Justice Rashid Aziz Khan, which has been hearing three presidential references against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, rejected the defendant's petition to summon the president, the prime minister, ministers and heads of government organizations as witnesses. The court also rejected the defendant's appeal to scrutinize the records of the Maya Petroleum gas case produced to her attorney. The court ruled that the defendant cannot be granted permission to scrutinize official files in her defense. (?The additional judge) also rejected another petition submitted by the defendant's lawyer to stay the proceedings of the case in order to appeal to the Supreme Court in this regard.

Sri Lanka

More Reportage on Premadasa Impeachment Situation

President: Impeachment Notice Lapsed

BK1409114891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting
Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT
14 Sep 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa in a letter to Speaker M.H. Mohamed states that the attorney general has advised that the notice of resolution does not fall within the provision of Article 70 (4) and the same cannot be proceeded with under the Constitution during the next session of parliament which commences on 24 September this year. It also follows that the notice of resolution cannot be now placed on the order book or any order paper in parliament. On 12 September 1991, the attorney general advised that since speaker had not reentered the resolution to remove the president from office by placing same on the order book or order

paper of parliament prior to the prorogation of parliament, the resolution has lapsed. He has further advised that the provision of Article 70 (1), Provision (C) which preclude the president from dissolving parliament has ceased to be applicable from the time parliament was prorogued. On 13 September 1991, the president had communicated to the speaker, briefing the advice of the attorney general.

Meanwhile, a special meeting of the government parliamentary group has been convened for the 18th, Wednesday, at 1500. The government's development programs will be high on the agenda. This was stated by a government spokesman.

Further on Lapsed Motion

BK1409134291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1245 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa in a letter to the speaker, M.H. Mohamed, says that the attorney general advised that the resolution under Article 38 (2) of the Constitution for the removal of the president from office does not fall within the provision of Article 70 (1) of the Constitution. This provision ceased to be applicable from the time of the making of the proclamation of 30 August 1991 suspending parliament.

The attorney general said an impeachment motion against President Ranasinghe Premadasa lapsed and cannot be brought before parliament. The president's letter to the speaker, quoting the attorney general, states that the notice of resolution does not fall within the provision of Article 70 (4) since it has not been placed in the order book or in any order paper of parliament at the time the proclamation of proroguing of parliament was made. The resolution cannot be proceeded with under the Constitution during the next session of parliament, which commences on 24 September this year. It also follows that the notice of resolution cannot now be placed on the order book or in any order paper in parliament. It also lapsed because the speaker did not put it on the parliamentary order paper before President Ranasinghe Premadasa suspended the house on 30 August. The provision of the Constitution that prevents the president from dissolving parliament while an impeachment is pending now no longer applies. On 12 September 1991, the attorney general advised that since the speaker did not entertain the resolution to remove the president from office by placing the same on the order book or order paper of parliament prior to the suspending of parliament, such a resolution lapsed. In a further advice on the provisions of Article 70 (1), Provision (C), which preclude the president from dissolving parliament, these ceased to be applicable from the time parliament was suspended. On 13 September 1991, the president communicated to the speaker the advice of the attorney general.

Speaker Denies Parliament Suspension

BK1609035491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament has admitted the resolution seeking impeachment of President Premadasa and forbidding the president from dissolving Parliament. In a letter to Mr. Premadasa, the speaker, Mr. M.H. Mohamed, said that the impeachment notice fulfills all the requirements of the Constitution and precludes the president from dissolving Parliament.

Mr. Mohamed's letter is in reply to the president's letter in which Mr. Premadasa had asserted that the impeachment notice had lapsed as it was not on the (order book) of Parliament at the end of its prorogation on the 30th of last month. Mr. Premadasa also claimed that the provisions of the Constitution precluding him from dissolving Parliament had ceased to be applicable from the time of prorogation.

Further on Premadasa Move

BK1509074691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 15 (AFP)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa may scrap Sri Lanka's parliament in a bid to block an unprecedented move by a majority of legislators to impeach him, ruling party dissidents said here Sunday. Laliith Athulathmudali, a former minister now leading a powerful anti-Premadasa campaign, told reporters that the president was "desperate" to prevent an inquiry against him and may dismiss parliament any moment.

The dissidents rejected a statement by Premadasa's office late Saturday that the impeachment resolution had lapsed with the suspension of parliament last month and he had regained powers to dissolve the legislature. "The president is dragging this crisis deeper and deeper. He is stretching the constitution beyond its elasticity. If he dissolves parliament, we will take both political and legal action against it," Athulathmudali said.

Premadasa's statement asserting his right to dissolve the legislature based on advice from the attorney general is widely seen here by political analysts as a prelude to a snap general election.

"First, Premadasa closed the court house by proroguing parliament till September 24. Then he takes advice from his legal counsel and tells the judge, in this case the speaker, that he cannot proceed with the case," Athulathmudali said. "This is a clear attempt to intimidate the speaker (Mohammad Hanifa Mohammad), MPs and a breach of parliamentary privileges. The president is so desperate he may even abolish parliament altogether."

Premadasa told the speaker that he had been advised by Attorney General Sunil de Silva that since the impeachment resolution had not been listed for debate at the time parliament was suspended, the motion "has lapsed."

Parliament was suspended on August 30, two days after the speaker received the impeachment motion moved by some 47 MPs from Premadasa's United National Party (UNP) and virtually the entire opposition.

The attorney general has also advised that the constitutional clause that prevented the president from dissolving parliament "has ceased to be applicable" from the time parliament was suspended.

Athulathmudali said the attorney general was an interested party in the case because some of the allegations against Premadasa involved action taken on his advice.

Under the Sri Lankan Constitution, the president was precluded from dissolving parliament after the speaker entertained an impeachment motion against him.

Premadasa has been charged with treason, bribery and other misdemeanours. However, the contents of the motion cannot be published until it is included in the parliamentary agenda.

The dissidents say they want to do away with the French style executive presidency and restore a parliamentary democracy modelled on the British system which existed before 1978.

Opposition Leader on Impeachment

BK1609121491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The deputy opposition leader of the north central provincial council, Somachandra Rajapaksha, of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party has pointed out that the executive presidential system paved the way to serve the people of Sri Lanka, and in general, the entire country irrespective of party, caste, religious, or other differences. Making a special statement on the current political situation, Mr. Rajapaksha has declared the impeachment resolution as a conspiracy by the chieftain clan which had enjoyed the politics of this country as a wealth that came from generation to generation. Feared it would lose its privileges since the power of the country has been entrusted to a child of a father of the low-income group. The pioneer of the executive presidential system was former President J.R. Jayewardene. This system prevailed in the country for more than 10 years. Those who presented the impeachment resolution had earlier accepted this system. They approved this was a more democratic system suitable for Sri Lanka than the parliamentary system. Opposing the executive presidential system today therefore means that they were attempting to end the leadership of Mr. Premadasa, a leader of the people.

It was the present president who had introduced a most suitable and just scheme in the provision of employment based on ethnic proportion and devoid of party or other differences. However, those who had represented the impeachment resolution are against this scheme. They have complained that they are not in a position to grant employment to a member of the UNP branch or their supporters. He asked from those who had presented the resolution whether they should wait for their party to gain power to grant employment to those who voted for their party or party supporters. Mr. Rajapaksha said the scheme introduced by the president to grant employment was praiseworthy.

Dissidents Deny Link With Mosad

BK1509075691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 15 (AFP)—Sri Lankan dissidents leading a campaign to overthrow President Ranasinghe Premadasa denied Sunday allegations that they had links with Israeli intelligence.

Lalith Athulathmudali, a former National Security minister and a key figure in the constitutional campaign to oust Premadasa, said Colombo had sought help from Israeli intelligence before he took over the security portfolio.

Premadasa strongly hinted that the Israeli secret service, the Mosad, may be funding the dissidents when he ordered the dismantling of the limited Israeli diplomatic presence here in April last year.

The government headed by Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene, invited Israeli intelligence to help Sri Lankan Armed Forces battle Tamil separatists in November 1983.

Athulathmudali said that after he took over the National Security Ministry seven months later he had expanded the sources of military help to include other countries such as Egypt, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Western nations and neighbouring India refused to sell weapons to Colombo because of the ethnic conflict, which is still dragging on, claiming thousands of lives in the island's northeast.

"Linking me with the Israelis is a vicious attempt to drive a wedge between me and the Muslim community with whom I have had a very good relationship," Athulathmudali said.

He has denied allegations in the local press that the rebel lawmakers were receiving foreign funding for the move to impeach Premadasa and scrap the executive presidency and establish a parliamentary democracy.

Sri Lanka allowed an Israeli interest section here in 1984 to function under the U.S. Embassy and Premadasa ordered it to shut down, ostensibly for injustices to Palestinians.

Dissidents Appeal to Army

*BK1509163991 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 91*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the opposition parties and dissidents in the ruling United National Party today appealed to the armed forces to stand by the constitution and not to obey what they called illegal orders from President Premadasa. Criticizing the president for his threat of snap general elections, they appealed to the commissioner of elections and civil servants to abide by the constitution. In a joint statement issued in Colombo today, they condemned what

they called the president's attempt to dictate to the speaker. The president had earlier told the speaker that the impeachment resolution moved against him seized to be valid as it had not been placed in the order book of parliament. Mr. Premadasa also said that as a consequence of the impeachment resolution lapsing, he has regained powers to dissolve parliament. The opposition parties and the dissidents on the other hand say that the president is in the same position as an accused in a criminal case against whom an indictment has been filed. As such, he has no authority to dissolve parliament or to determine the resolution is invalid, they added.